MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MARCH 1983

Syria-Lebanon

Soviet Support for Syria, Missile Deployment -- During a meeting with Syrian Ambassador to the USSR Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko expressed the USSR's "continued determination to support the defense capabilities of Syria, considering it the main front facing imperialism and Zionism in the Middle East," Damascus radio reported.

Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov's recent statement that the USSR would intervene in the event of a war between Israel and Syria gives a "more serious nature to the presence of Soviet missiles and advisers in Syria" and must arouse international concern about the risk of Syria's becoming a "completely Soviet satellite and receiving defense from Moscow if war breaks out," Israeli sources cited by Jerusalem radio asserted. A MA'ARIV commentary said the Soviet envoy's statement "has nothing new in it at all" and confirms previous Soviet commitments to Syria.

Claiming that Syria is facing an imminent Israeli attack, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf warned Israel not to discount the possibility of Soviet intervention in the event that it decides to attack Syria. According to KUNA, Khalaf told the KUWAIT TIMES that PLO forces would "definitely" fight alongside the Syrians in the event of such an attack.

Security Situation -- Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Syrian military command recently withdrew the remaining SAM-6's from the Al-Biqa' area. According to informed sources, Soviet and Syrian experts recently dismantled five bases for SAM-6's, moved these batteries inside Syrian territory, and deployed "dummy missiles" in their place "to deceive reconnaissance operations," the radio added. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon claimed that, according to "official information' which has become available to the Lebanese Government, Syria intends to implement an operaton to partition Al-Biqa' by bringing in armed Iranian groups to join the "Husayn al-Musawi group" and to declare an "Islamic statelet in Ba'labaak and Al-Hirmil." The radio added that the Iranians distributed leaflets on 17 March calling on the Lebanese Army to leave Ba'labaak and urging Shi'ite soldiers to join the "Islamic movement."

In another development an Italian soldier from the multinational force was wounded when an Italian patrol tried to stop a minibus near the Sabra refugee camp, AFP reported. Meanwhile, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens toured Lebanon and "begged" IDF commanders to refrain from incidents wtih U.S. Marines "as far as possible," Jerusalem radio noted. According to another radio report, the U.S. Marines' commander said there has been no direct threat by IDF soldiers against his men.

U.S. Proposals -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir briefed Prime Minister Menahem Begin on U.S. proposals for solving the problem of security arrangements in southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio added that the proposals will be raised at the 20 March Israeli Cabinet session.

Libya

Objecting to Western media reports that Libya has decided to pursue its "exiled" citizens who are hostile to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's government, JANA claimed that a General People's Congress decision had been distorted. JANA reported that the Congress decision regarding "the elements that have fled" Libya established a committee to call upon Libyans abroad to return to their homeland and noted that "the door for repentance is open." The decision also stressed that "all necessary measures" will be taken to

urge various countries not to assist "the deluded group that deals with the enemies" of the Libyan people. Otherwise, the Libyan people will "be free to do the same toward these countries through all available means."

Libyan-Soviet talks led by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Council of Ministers Chairman Nikolay Tikhonov began in Moscow, JANA reported. The discussions focused on bilateral relations and ways to strengthen existing cooperation, JANA noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab-UK Relations -- Following his visit to the FRG, Jordan's King Husayn arrived in London to head the Arab seven-member committee delegation during its meeting with the British prime minister and senior British officials, Amman radio reported. Earlier, Damascus radio noted that Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam left Damascus for London to participate in the Arab committee delegation.

Jerusalem Committee Meeting -- Morocco's King Hassan II, in his capacity as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, has called for an extraordinary meeting of the committee in view of the "grave situation" resulting from repeated "aggressions" against Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, Rabat radio announced.

PLO Affairs

Death of Israeli POW's -- PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir affirmed that two Israeli POW's held by the Palestinian resistance were killed recently by Israeli troops in Lebanon when they opened fire on a Palestinian vehicle near Beirut, according to AFP. Al-Wazir did not indicate if the Israeli POW's were captured recently or if they were two of the eight POW's who have been detained since last summer. The PLO official announced that negotiations on the exchange of POW's with Israel are deadlocked because of Israel's refusal to give the PLO a list of prisoners detained in the Ansar camp or a list of the estimated 400 Palestinians who were transferred to Israel, the agency noted.

'Arafat Activities -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned to Tunis following a brief visit to North Yemen during which he met with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and discussed areas of cooperation between the Palestinian and Yemeni revolutions as well as the latest developments in the Palestinian question, SPA and San'a' radio reported.

Diplomatic Status -- the CSSR and Japan have decided to upgrade the status of PLO representation to the ambassadorial level, Damascus and Baghdad radios announced.

Iran

Petroleum Minister Mohammad Gharazi stated that Iran "cannot accept" the $29 oil price, Tehran radio reported citing Gharazi's remarks on his return from London. He added that Iran will determine a "reduction" in its oil price in accordance with its war costs.

In another development three members of the Peykar opposition group were executed by the authorities in Esfahan on 10 March, according to a prosecutor's office statement broadcast by Esfahan radio.

Iraq

A delegation led by National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad left for a visit to the USSR at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, INA announced.

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

Egypt has promised to resume granting licenses for importation of goods from Israel, IDF Radio reported citing the director of the Israeli Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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AL-WAZIR: TWO ISRAELI PRISONERS KILLED BY IDF

NC171446 Paris AFP in English 1437 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Amman, March 17 (AFP) -- Israeli troops serving in Lebanon recently killed two Israeli prisoners held by the Palestinians when they opened fire on a Palestinian vehicle near Beirut, Palestinian military chief Abu Jihad [Khal'il al-Wazar] said here today. In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Mr Jihad, head of the Fatah armed forces and a close advisor to Yasir 'Arafat, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader, said the two Israelis had been killed along with three PLO troops when the car the five were travelling in was caught under Israeli fire at a checkpoint near Beirut.

Mr Jihad refused to say, however, whether the two were among the eight Israeli prisoners currently held by the Palestinians. Six Israeli soldiers are being held by the Fatah while two are held by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

Commenting on attempts to exchange the eight for PLO troops captured by the Israelis in the Lebanese war last year, Mr Jihad said the "exchange procedure" was currently deadlocked due to Israel's refusal to hand over a list of prisoners removed from Ansar internment camp in southern Lebanon and taken to Israel. "There will be no exchange as long as Israel refuses to supply the Red Cross with the list of these prisoners, which we believe number 400", he said.

Several thousand Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners have been detained in Ansar camp since last summer.

RABAT: BOUCETTA ANNOUNCES ARAB COMMITTEE MEETING

LD171343 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The minister of state for foreign affairs [Boucetta] has announced that the Arab seven-member committee will meet next week in Morocco under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II. This came in a statement made by the minister of state this morning before leaving for London where he is due to take part in the activities of the committee, which is to visit the British capital under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan.

SPA: 'ARAFAT RETURNS TO TUNIS FROM YAR 17 MAR

LD172359 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2032 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, 17 Mar (SPA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned to Tunis tonight at the end of his brief visit to the YAR, where he discussed developments in the Palestinian question with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Later tonight Yasir 'Arafat is scheduled to chair a PLO Executive Committee meeting to discuss developments in the Palestinian question.

Questions U.S. Mediation Role

LD172135 Algiers Voice of Palestine 1700 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] In a press interview published in Moscow, Brother Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said the United States is presently trying to evade the role of mediator for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. Brother Abu Ammar added in an interview with ASIA AND AFRICA TODAY magazine that the course of events clearly indicates that the U.S. Administration is not serious in doing anything to achieve a just settlement of the Middle East problem. He confirmed that anyone who is serious in striving to solve the problem must deal with the essence of it, which is guaranteeing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

Brother Abu Ammar stressed that an international conference on the Middle East crisis with the participation of the PLO alongside the other parties concerned could reach a truly just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that the Palestinian struggle against the Zionist aggressors has entered a new phase on the military and political level and that the resistance will not abandon the armed struggle. He emphasized the escalation of military operations in southern Lebanon against the Israeli invasion forces at a time when strikes and demonstrations in the occupied homeland are growing in protest of the practices of the Zionist occupation authorities.

QNA: 'ARAFAT TO VISIT JORDAN; AL-WAZIR TO VISIT GULF

GF171950 Doha QNA in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Amman, 17 Mar (QNA) -- QNA's correspondent in Amman has learned that Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, will visit the Jordanian capital in the middle of next week. The correspondent also learned that Mr 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan will make a comprehensive assessment of coordination and cooperation between Jordan and the PLO in light of the PNC resolutions and the results of the Arab seven-member committee's tour of the capitals of the superpowers.

On the other hand, the QNA correspondent has learned that Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, will visit a number of Gulf states next week with the aim of holding consultations with officials in them on the latest developments in the Palestinian question.

SALAH KHALAF ON PNC RESOLUTIONS, BLOC TOUR

AU171720 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 15 Mar 83 p 2

[Interview with PLO deputy chief Salah Khalaf during his 10-14 March visit to Budapest by Tibor Eszes: "We Are Struggling for our Homeland and Independent State; NEPSZABADSAG Interview With Palestinian Leader Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad)"]

[Text] Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), head of the security service of the PLO and deputy head of the Fatah organization, had talks in Budapest recently. At the end of his talks, the politician received Tibor Eszes, a member of our paper's staff, and answered his questions.

[Question] How do you appraise the Algiers session of the PNC?

[Answer] The main purpose of Israel's war in Lebanon was to strike at the Palestinian resistance politically and militarily and destroy the PLO. This attempt did not succeed. We have lost positions through our withdrawal from Beirut, but we have saved our fighters and leaders! As for the Algiers session of the PNC, it was an outstanding political victory because Western endeavors to split the Palestinian forces failed. The participants gave a unanimous answer to what should be done under the present changed circumstances. The resolutions endorsed in Algiers are characterized by the fact that -- shedding the previous infantile disorders, approaching matters from the side of wishes -- they set out from an analysis of the realities. At the same time, the decisions of the PNC, showing political maturity, also ensure the necessary tactical flexibility in the implementation of the strategic objectives that have been laid down with principled firmness. That is why our decisions have been approved, at vast demonstrations, by the Palestinian people living in the areas occupied by Israel. Essentially, the same can be said about the Arab world. The countries of the socialist community also have assured us of their resolute support. Some people in Western Europe have noted that the resolutions are characterized by flexibility. At the same time, as before, a considerable portion of Western public opinion is still under the influence of U.S. propaganda, which is hostile to us.

[Question] The Algiers document stressed that "the PLO resolutely condemns terrorism in general and its international version." Why did you regard it as important to stress this?

[Answer] It emerges from the resolutions: We have in mind fundamentally the terrorism with which imperialism and Zionism endeavor to oppress and intimidate peoples throughout the world. It is a known fact that, parallel with these acts, attempts are being made in the West to affix the stigma of terrorism to every national liberation movement. To cite an example, during the aggression against Lebanon, defenseless refugee tent camps, expressly civilian targets, were attacked with the most modern weapons. If this was not terrorism, what can one call it? We Palestinians condemn all offensive acts carried out outside the occupied territories -- irrespective of who commits them. We include in this also the dissidents who, behind revolutionary slogans, attack synagogues in Belgium, Austria, or elsewhere. This cannot be an aim! In contrast to the forces that are hostile to it, the PLO is not prepared to treat the Jews as a homogeneous entity; the Palestinian resistance struggles against the Zionist movement, which rejects the Palestinian people's having a homeland and independent state.

[Question] Would you please speak about your talks in Budapest.

[Answer] Although my stay was realtively brief, I am very satisfied with my discussions with the Hungarian partners, party and state leaders alike. I feel that I had an adequate opportunity to prepare the visit of a higher-level Palestinian delegation to Hungary. At the same time, my present tour constitutes a practical implementation of the Algiers resolutions of the PLO; the Palestinian movement particularly values the fact that the Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist countries are at its side in its struggle.

I would like to thank the MSZMP, the PPF, state leaders, and the Hungarian people as a whole through NEPSZABADSAG for the active solidarity with which they support our struggle for the just cause of our people.

Predicts Israeli Attack

LD171163 Kuwait KUNA in English 1011 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, March 17 (KUNA) -- Israel should not disregard Soviet intervention in the event it decides to attack Syria according to a high-ranking al-Fatah Palestine Revolutionary Council member. In an interview with the KUWAIT TIMES, Salah Khalaf, code-named Abu Iyad, said that Syria is facing an imminent Israeli attack, especially on its SAM-5 missile sites in the spring.

Khalaf warned Israel not to discount the possibility of Soviet intervention if they attack what Israel regards as a strategic danger to its security. He said that the Soviets feel that the Israelis hope through their attack on Syria to discredit the image and reputation of the Soviets in the Middle East.

Israeli aggression against Syria, which Abu Iyad believes will be launched soon, would be preceded by an Israeli concession in Lebanon in return for the green light from the United States to allow the Israelis to attack Syria. The Israeli attack on Lebanon was an American decision not an Israeli one, he explained.

Khalaf said that though there were differences in views between the PLO and Syria, there was full-scale coordination on the military level.

"This is vital because the Palestinian commandos in the Al-Biqa' and north Lebanon are neighbors with Syria and suppliers to our troops come through Syria. Any confrontation with Syria will definitely involve our commandos [words indistinct] said and added that his commandos were prepared to fight with Syrian troops on [words indistinct] disclosed that there were consistent steps to prepare a successful meeting between the PLO and Syria, but denied that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had met recently at the nonaligned in New Delhi.

"We look forward to a meeting with Syria in the forthcoming weeks to solve all outstanding problems," Khalaf said and noted that relations with Syria are based on positive, through indirect, dialogue.

On relations with Lebanon, Khalaf said contacts with the Lebanese Government had not stopped but had taken different forms, especially since President Amil al-Jumayyil came to power. "True there are many aggressive acts against the Palestinians in Lebanon," he said but added that these were conducted by the Israeli occupation forces rather than the Lebanese Government. "The aggressive acts committed now against the Palestinians in south Lebanon and in Beirut, although they are initiated by the Israelis, are in fact carried out by Lebanese factions of the Phalangists, the Lebanese Forces and those of Sa'd Haddad", Khalaf noted.

He said that the Palestinians have agreed to withdraw from Al-Biqa' and the north after definite guarantees are given to protect his people in the camps, the villages and Beirut.

Commenting on the Arab League delegation's visit to Britain next week, Khalaf said that although Britain understands the Palestinian cause and its implications, it lacks the courage not to toe the line of the United States. "As such, it will be a long time before Britain recognizes the PLO," he said and added that in his personal view the Palestinians should not go to Britain as its policy is "historically the prime cause of our sufferings and miseries."

"Britain bears the responsibility of what happened to Palestine as Britain planted the first cornerstone of Zionism in our country," the PLO official concluded.

FORMER GAZA MAYOR ON CARTER, INTERNAL SITUATION

PM171553 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 15 Mar 83 p 9

[Interview with Rashad ash-Shawwa, former Gaza mayor, by Hisham Milhim by telephone from Washington -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] How do you evaluate Carter's visit and what did you tell him?

[Answer] I explained the situation in the occupied territories and the injustice we are suffering. I spoke about the need to convey to President Reagan and to the American people the full picture of the situation in order to convince them to change their attitude and to bring pressure to bear on Israel to end the military occupation.

[Question] What was Carter's response?

[Answer] He was sympathetic and understanding and confirmed his conviction of the Palestinian people's right to establish a state of their own. But he said that the present situation in the United States and inside the House of Representatives and Senate do not allow any U.S. president to bring pressure to bear on Israel in order to accept a certain policy. He said that he "advises the Palestinian people to reach a formula for participation with Jordan and Egypt in talks that would be the means to explain the situation and conditions of the Palestinian people in order to win the support of U.S. public opinion." Carter warned that failure to do so within the next 2 years will lead to the creation to a new situation under the present Israeli policy whereby there will be nothing left for the Palestinian people in the future.

[Question] Did you explain to him the need for a political dialogue between the United States and the PLO?

[Answer] I did not discuss this subject, but President Carter told me that he had met with some PLO officials and that he intends to meet more during his present tour.

[Question] Did you tell him that despite the internal political situation in the United States Washington could put pressure on Israel if it wanted?

[Answer] Of course. I explained that to Carter and told him that we are not asking the United States to send its armies to the Middle East in order to intervene but are asking it only to tell Israel that if it continues its settlement and occupation policy Washington will review the aid it is giving it. I am personally convinced that if such an announcement is made by the United States Israel will be stopped in its tracks.

[Question] What is your opinion of the PNC resolutions issued in Algiers?

[Answer] So far I have not received an official copy of the resolutions. All the information I have is from the press. But, generally, the PNC came out with several results, the first being the adoption of resolutions by majority and not by consensus. I believe that the weakness in the PNC resolutions was the insistence by some that the resolutions should be adopted by consensus and not by majority. What I expected to happen and what did happen was that confidence in the leadership of the PLO and of Yasir 'Arafat was renewed. He was empowered to take steps and to discuss all means that he may deem suitable for the Palestinian people within the general political guideline on which agreement was reached. I believe that the Algiers conference left the door open so that Yasir 'Arafat will be able to act more freely. The Council did not close the door finally in the face of Reagan's initiative, which we consider to contain several positive points, the most important being the restoration of Arab sovereignty over the occupied territories and the halting of Israeli settlements, which is regarded as the greatest danger facing us at present.

[Question] All signs in the occupied territories indicate that the escalation of settlement building will continue and that tension will increase. Do you expect a hot spring like last year's?

[Answer] The situation in Gaza and the West Bank is very tense. Recently there was an attempt to occupy Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. Some 45 Jews were arrested during this new aggression. Such incidents create acute tension. Moreover, the general situation is bad and the economic situation is worsening.

Our brothers abroad must realize that here we are prisoners in our country, disarmed and ruled by an unjust and oppressive force.

SANA: DFLP SCORES MUBARAK STATEMENTS ON PALESTINE

JN172042 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2010 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 17 Mar (SANA) -- The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has condemned Husni Mubarak's recent statements to a group of his party members on the Palestinian issue, describing them as a direct interference in internal Palestinian affairs and part of the repeated moves to promote U.S. policy that denies the rights of the Palestinian people. In a statement by its official spokesman, the Front called on Egyptian national and democratic forces to put an end to the Egyptian regime's interference in the internal Palestinian affairs and its policy of promoting U.S. solutions hostile to the Palestinian people and which calls for bypassing the PLO through an understanding with the Jordanian regime based on the liquidatory autonomy plan.

ARAB LEAGUE RESCHEDULES AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT

LD181331 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, March 18 (MAP) -- Twenty four Arab and African foreign ministers will meet here next Monday to discuss cooperation in various fields between African and the Arab world, the Arab League announced on Thursday in Tunis.

This session has a particular importance in promoting Afro-Arab relations and strengthening the two communities cooperation and solidarity, with the aim of facing the serious challenges imposed on the Arab world and the African Continent in political, economic and security areas.

Participants will also discuss means of consolidating support to Arab and African causes in international forums, and of coordinating the efforts of the Arab League and the Organization of African Unity in struggling against the Zionist entity of Israel and the racist regime of South Africa.

The Arab group in these meetings will be represented by Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Somalia, Iraq, Palestine, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, and Mauritania, while the African group will be represented by Morocco, Tunisia, Angola, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, and Swaziland.

The ministers were scheduled to meet in Abu Dhabi March 19 but the date and venue of meeting were changed after contacts between the United Arab Emirates, Arab League and the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The ministers who form a permanent cooperation committee met last year in Khartoum (Sudan) under the chairmanship of UAE State minister for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah.

The committee was formed by the first Afro-Arab summit held in Cairo in 1977.

The meeting's agenda includes the intensification of trade exchanges among African countries, transports and communications in Africa, the fixed link across the Strait of Gibraltar, increasing maritime lines between North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, agricultural production in Africa and the need to raise food production, development of forestry in the continent, the creation of an African center of documents and data processing, and the creation, in Morocco, of the high institute of management for North Africa.

AL-WAZIR ON PALESTINIAN FORCES IN AL-BIQA'

GF171754 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian forces are still on contact lines with the Zionist enemy and that they fight him in their special ways. In a press statement to be published in Beirut tomorrow, he added that the Palestinian forces will remain in Al-Biqa' until the forces of the Zionist invasion and occupation withdraw completely from all Lebanese territory.

BAHRAIN

PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY AL-AKHBAR

PM161655 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 14 Mar 83 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah by Muhammad al-'Azab Musa -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] "I wish to be the first Arab official to visit Egypt." That sentence, uttered by the distinguished Arab official in the course of my interview with him, made me happy. I said: "This sentence would make a good headline for our interview. Do you agree?"

He smiled and immediately replied: "Yes, you can quote me. I want to be the first Arab official to visit Egypt after the restoration of full official relations, God willing."

Let me introduce him in a few lines. He is Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah. That distinguished Arab official also said: "Certain states and organizations are trying to create problems among the fraternal states and to divide them, but this method will not succeed in Egypt's case because Egypt is above all this and no power can interfere to prevent its return to its brothers. As far as we are concerned, we will not allow any power to drive a wedge between us and Egypt. Furthermore, I trust the wisdom and leadership of Brother President Husni Mubarak, and I believe that he will never do anything that does not strengthen and develop relations between us.

"I do not consider that there is a boycott between Egypt and Bahrain or between Egypt and the Arab nation. We are steadily cooperating with the brothers in Egypt as though there had never been a boycott or estrangement. Thousands of Egyptian brothers are pouring into the Arab countries with the approval of their governments, so where is the severance of relations?"

[Question] Do you, therefore, expect an early restoration of official and diplomatic relations between Egypt and the Arab world?

[Answer] Officially, the Baghdad Arab summit resolutions are still valid. They have not been changed to this day. We know the developments which occurred in those circumstances and we appreciate the causes. The past period really affected us deeply. The absence of Egypt from Arab circles was deeply felt. We look forward to the day when Egypt will return to its Arab brothers and play an effective role in the settlement of differences among brothers. There are several roles for Egypt to play in this respect.

[Question] But how can this be achieved?

[Answer] Such matters can only be resolved through consultation and understanding. I believe that the opportunity is now ripe for continuous contacts between Egypt and the Arab brothers in international gatherings attended by Egypt, such as the Nonaligned Summit Conference held recently in New Delhi. Such contacts help clear the atmosphere. It is not in Egypt's interest to distance itself from the Arab nation and, similarly, it is not in the Arab nation's interest to distance itself from Egypt. We hope for early restoration of official relations between Egypt and the Arab states."

[Question] Do you regard the GCC (comprising the six Arab Gulf states of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and the UAE) as a step toward the desired Arab solidarity, and are you satisfied with the present level of Gulf cooperation?

[Answer] We are certainly satisfied with and proud of the level of cooperation within the GCC and the achievements made, despite the young age of the GCC.

[Question] Your Excellency, do you feel that there are foreign dangers threatening the Gulf region as a result of the policies of the superpowers, and how can the region avert the danger of superpower conflict?

[Answer] We are very well aware that the Arab Gulf region is the focus of everyone's attention for different reasons and purposes. The Gulf region is not only one of the richest in the world in oil, but also enjoys a unique strategic position. We know very well that ever since Britain finally left the Gulf area in 1971, neither the East nor the West has stopped worrying about the other side managing to control this universally and uniquely important area. We also realize that, when the Soviet Union decided to occupy Afghanistan, one of its strategic aims was to get one step closer to the Gulf's warm waters. In view of all these and other factors, our policy is based on maintaining our independent and nonaligned role and welcoming friendship with other states on the basis of mutual respect and commitment to noninterference in the domestic affairs of others.

Proceeding from this premise and to spare the region every risk, we believe that in the first and final analyses, the security of the Gulf is the responsibility of the states and peoples of the region. The Gulf region will only be protected and built by its own people.

[Question] Speaking of the dangers threatening the Gulf, Your Excellency, what do you think of the Iraqi-Iranian war and its detrimental effects on the region, and how can it be stopped?

[Answer] None of us wants this war to continue. I say frankly and without hesitation that Iraq did not want this war. The war was imposed on Iraq which found itself, as a revolution and a regime, in a position of self-defense. Iraq was forced into this war, but thanks God it has proved its steadfastness whatever the sacrifices.

Opinions may differ regarding the Gulf war, but the truth is that this war only benefits the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nations. Anyone who attempts to prolong it harbors ill intentions against the Arab and Islamic nations. There have been many Arab and Islamic mediations and mediations by heads of state and international organizations to contain this harmful and destructive war. All these mediations were good offices used to stop the bloodletting between the two countries, but regrettably the mediations have so far been unsuccessful because of a determination to keep this grinding war going. We hope that the Iranian side will now accept mediation to end the war, especially since Iraq has managed to stand fast and repulse numerous offensives launched to destroy it. Iraq, thanks be to God, is indestructible. Its strength is strength for us all. It remains for Iran to respond to the mediations and to prove that it is a friendly neighbor with good intentions toward its neighbors.

[Question] What about the other danger threatening the Gulf region now? By that I mean the economic danger resulting from the OPEC crisis?

[Answer] I can say, regrettably, that OPEC was hit from within before being hit from the outside. What has happened is a result of the price manipulation a long time ago by OPEC member states -- some of them Arab, unfortuantely -- which ignored the OPEC decisions. In view of this rift in OPEC ranks, we see that the GCC states are the ones trying to prevent a price war beneficial to others and to preserve and maintain the stature of OPEC.

[Question] Now we come to the paramount Arab cause. Do you see any chance of success for the current efforts to bring about an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and a fulfillment of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination?

[Answer] Our policy on the Palestinian question has not changed.

We impose no conditions on our Palestinian brothers. We believe that only they have the right to determine their own policy as they see fit.

There is no doubt that, if the Arabs manage to win U.S. support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, the result could be effective and real pressure on Israel to make it abandon its intransigence and haughtiness and subsequently acknowledge the Palestinian rights. However, this cannot be accomplished unless there is a unified Arab position and power to back up the legitimate demands with all capabilities. We must not forget that had it not been for Arab disunity, the situation in Lebanon would not have reached the levels it did.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON EGYPT, OTHER ISSUES

GF171556 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 16 Mar 83 p 3

[Excerpt] Ambassador Khalid Muhammad Ja'far, acting Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of political administration, expressed his hope that the reasons which resulted in the severing of relations between the Arab countries and Egypt will be eliminated so that Egypt can return to the Arab ranks and regain to its significant role in the Arab League, because it is an important part of the Arab nation.

In an exclusive interview with AS-SIYASAH, Khalid Ja'far, acting Foreign Ministry under secretary, denied that the GCC countries wish to lead the Arab countries in a manner similar to Egypt's, when it used to lead the Arab march before its signing of the Camp David accord with Israel. He said: What we are concerned about is a comprehensive unity of the Arab nation so that it will march in a safe way and become one bloc, because we are facing a vicious enemy and its assistants.

Mr Ja'far said: We in the Gulf, particularly in Kuwait, do not spare any effort in contacting the leaders of the superpowers and in explaining the importance of Arab issues which should be solved, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue.

The acting Foreign Ministry under secretary, called on the Iranian leaders to listen to the voice of logic and respond to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's announcement on Iraq's readiness to end the fighting, to return to the international Iraqi borders and discuss the issue to bring about an end to the bloodshed in the region. Mr Ja'far said that Kuwait hopes that one day Iraq-Syrian relations will become normal. He said: We are trying by all means to unite the ranks.

The acting Foreign Ministry under secretary said that if relations are established between the Gulf and the socialist bloc, they will not harm the Gulf, but will be useful. He said: The GCC countries have relations with the Western countries and when they establish relations with the socialist bloc, they will not be harmed.

Mr Ja'far expressed his belief that the U.S. Administration is incapable of imposing on Israel the solution of establishing a Palestinian state for the Palestinians on their land and that it is also incapable of imposing reality on Israel and asking it to withdraw from the Lebanese territories which were occupied illegally.

Mr Ja'far emphasized that the Gulf's security and protection is the responsibility of its people. He said: We do not see any danger to the Gulf region. All we want is for the two big giants to keep out of the Pacific Ocean and to leave the Gulf region in security and safety, and not bring their conflicts to our region.

OIL MINISTER SEES RENEWED STRENGTH IN OPEC

GF171356 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 16 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah returned home yesterday from the longest meeting in OPEC's history. He said he was sure the OPEC's recent agreement is not fragile and that this agreement is one of the best ever made by OPEC ministers.

He said "if the meeting was too long," that was because of our desire to conclude a good agreement. He added: We in Kuwait and the Gulf states do our best to protect any OPEC agreement. The minister wished that from now on and until just before the end of the year, those who bet that it will be the end of OPEC, will be surprised to see that OPEC is still strong and capable of defending the interests of its member states.

About Mexico's reduction of its light oil to $29 which is equivalent to OPEC's new price, he said this was in accordance with an agreement between OPEC and Mexico, and that the same applies to its heavy oil which is sold at $23 per barrel. About the price of Kuwaiti oil, he said it will be $29 minus $1.7 due to the differences in quality because Kuwait's oil is considered to be of the heavy type. And about the possibility that Britain may reduce its prices, he said that Britain knows what is good for it and any change in the new price will be responded to by Nigeria, which knows how to answer back. He concluded his statement by saying that the countries which took part in this agreement are good ones and they will be respected by everyone, and I hope that what some have predicted will not happen.

About the issue of Santa Fe, the minister said the matter is not worth the controversy that was created about it, and the U.S. decision will not in the least affect Santa Fe operations. About Kuwait's present production share and the share it will have later, he said: We shall produce as much as we desire but we shall in no way exceed the upper ceiling that was specified for us and that is 1.05 million barrels per day.

UAE

SUDANESE PRESIDENT MEETS WITH AL NUHAYYAN

GF171852 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1725 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Mar (WAKH) -- Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri left Abu Dhabi today after a brief stopover in the UAE. During his stopover, the Sudanese president held a meeting with Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, during which views were exchanged on the current Arab situation and its developments, in addition to the situation in the region.

Moreover, the results of the Nonaligned Summit Conference, which concluded its work in New Delhi this month, were discussed in addition to the bilateral relations and ways to develop them.

PDRY

SYRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS

GF161536 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, met in his office at the Central Committee Secretariat today with Yusuf Faysal, assistant secretary general of the Communist Party of Syria.

During the meeting, which was held in a fraternal atmosphere, bilateral relations were discussed and views were exchanged on the developments of the situation in the Middle East and on the importance of the unity and cohesion of the Arab liberation movement and its national progressive regimes in confronting the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary attack directed against our Arab peoples.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his appreciation for the fraternal Arab Syrian people's steadfastness against the Israeli provocations and movements. He affirmed the continuation of the PDRY's support to Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement against the Zionist occupation of the occupied Arab territories. He emphasized the importance of a firm Arab alliance with the international revolutionary movement forces, foremost of which is the socialist bloc.

The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee.

Departs 17 Mar

GF171612 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The Syrian Communist Party delegation led by Brother Yusuf Faysal, assistant secretary general of the party, left Aden today after a week visit to our country during which it held talks with a number of YSP officials dealing with the developments in the Arab arena and cooperation between the two parties. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee.

A joint communique was issued today after the conclusion of the visit of the Syrian Communist Party to our country from 11-17 March, in which the YSP and the Syrian Communist Party affirmed the importance of strengthening the Syrian-Palestinian-national Lebanese alliance on the basis of fortifying Syria's steadfastness, foiling the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territories and its attempts to divide them; liberating the rest of the occupied Arab territories; and continuing the liberation struggle of the Arab Palestinian people until the restoration of their legal rights, particularly to return self-determination and establishment of their own state on their national land under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

SOVIET ADMIRAL GORSHKOV TO VISIT IN MARCH

GF171622 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Comrade Admiral of the Soviet Fleet Sergey Gorshkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and commander in chief of the Soviet Naval Forces, will make an official and friendly visit to our country during the second half of this month. This visit is within the framework of exchange visits between the leaders of the armed forces of our country and those of the USSR.

BRIEFS

SOVIET DELEGATION ARRIVES -- The Soviet trade unions delegation arrived in Aden today led by Comrade Provotorov, secretary of the trade unions Secretariat, on an official and friendly visit to PDRY which will be for a few days. Upon arrival he stated that his visit to PDRY is within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed last September between the Yemeni and Soviet trade unions. He added that the exchange visits will develop relations and noted that relations between the two countries' trade unions are excellent. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Mar 83 GF]

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL APPOINTED -- PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad today issued a decision appointing 'Abdallah Nasir (ad-Dawlah) as minister plenipotentiary at the Foreign Ministry. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Mar 83 GF]

YAR

MATERIALS ON 'ARAFAT VISIT 16-17 MAR

Arrival in San'a'

GF162032 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in San'a' this evening on a visit during which he will meet with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and other officials.

Meets With 'Abdallah Salih

GF171826 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at the presidential house at 1300 today, Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces. During the meeting, cooperation between the Yemeni and the Palestinian revolutions and the recent developments in the Palestinian issue were discussed.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Karim al-Arashi, and 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, vice presidents and members of the Standing Committee; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs and member of the Standing Committee; Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah al-Bashiri, chief of staff and member of the Standing Committee; Mu'in Busaysu, Abu 'Ammar's educational adviser; and Hikmat Zayd, PLO representative in San'a'.

'Arafat Addresses Conference

GF171750 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Speech delivered by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during popular festival held on occasion of San'a' Regional Conference on 17 March -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Greetings to you from the third part of Yemen, from Palestine. [applause] Yes, greetings to you from Palestine. As I see this unique and living experiment about which I told my brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, let me participate and give me the honor of taking part in one of its conferences. He fulfilled his promise and hence I came to you in the name of the northern part, the most northern part, the third part, the Palestinian part, from the first part to the first part. [applause and chants]

It is no mere coincidence that when some of our Palestinian brothers from the third part of Yemen were arrested with some of our brothers in the first part of Yemen together with other brothers, the first thing that the Israelis did, is to say where are the Palestinians and the Yemenis, let them stand aside. What does this mean? It means that this stand is known to our enemies. They know of the genuineness of the Yemeni fighter. They know the meaning of this blood which drained in the Beirut epic side by side with the downfall of the blood of his Palestinian brothers, Lebanese brothers and Arab struggling brothers.

It only expressed genuineness and interblending of blood, spirits and goals in the same trench for one cause, namely the liberation of Palestine and the liberation of Al-Aqsa Mosque. [slogans]

Brothers, yes we shall continue the march, we shall continue the march. When we left Beirut, they thought that the revolution was over and that everyone was going to their quarters.

Yes, yes, yes, despite all their attempts, they were not able to crush this Palestinian revolution. This warmth, this grace and this passion that we find here in the first part and in the second part and in every Arab land that these strugglers reached, stress the reality of this revolution about which our leader and martyr, Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, said, this revolution continues to exist.

San'a' Rally

GF171842 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpt] A big popular rally was held this morning at the Festivals Square in San'a' on the occasion of opening the first session of the San'a' Province Regional Conference. The rally was attended by 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, vice president and member of the Standing Committee; Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister for economic affairs and member of the Standing Committee; Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah al-Bashiri, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces and member of Standing Committee; 'Ali (Muqbil Qutaymah), secretary general of the general union of domestic development bodies and member of the Standing Committee; Lt Col Ahmad (ar-Ruquni), president of the General Corporation for Textiles and member of the Standing Committee; and a number of Standing Committee members; People's Assembly members; members of the San'a' Providence General People's Congress; scholars, chiefs; senior citizens; youth representatives; and thousands of citizens from the province.

'Arafat Departs

GF171844 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Palestinian leader Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left San'a' this afternoon following a short visit to the republic during which he met with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and discussed with him the fields of cooperation between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and the latest developments in the Palestinian question.

EGYPT TO PARTICIPATE IN OAU SUMMIT IN ADDIS ABABA

NC181032 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA) -- The Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to participate in the 19th OAU summit conference scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa in June following the two failures to convene it in Tripoli.

MENA has learned that within the framework of Egypt's concern to support the OAU and ensure the success of its 19th summit conference, a Foreign Ministry delegation will visit a number of central, east, and west African countries next week to consult and coordinate with the officials of these countries in order to prepare for this conference.

A Foreign Ministry committee has also been formed to study and follow up the topics that will be discussed by the conference, especially vital issues that are of interest to Africa. The committee will formulate Egypt's stand on these topics.

'ALI DENIES ELAT ENVOY TO VISIT JERUSALEM

NC172247 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2232 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that Egypt's consul general in Elat, Minister Plenipotentiary Hasan 'Isa, has not been assigned to go to Jerusalem or to visit the Israeli Knesset, contrary to reports that Israel recently disseminated.

'Ali said that no Egyptian official can visit Arab Jerusalem on the basis that it is a land subjected to Israeli occupation. He said that the Egyptian consul has asked permission to go to Cairo and that the Foreign Ministry has not charged him to visit Jerusalem or the Knesset.

'Ali's statements come as a comment on the reports disseminated by Israel saying that the Egyptian consul will pay an official visit to Jerusalem in its capacity as the capital of Israel.

MUBARAK SWEARS IN INDUSTRY MINISTER, NEW GOVERNORS

NC150952 Cairo MENA in English 0906 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 15 (MENA) -- New Minister of Industry Muhammad as-Sayyid al-Gharuri took the constitutional oath this morning before President Husni Mubarak.

The ceremony was attended by Premier Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din and aide-de-camp 'Izz ad-Din Mukhtar, and Chamberlain Mahmud al-Masri.

The four new governors of Cairo, Kafr Ash-Shayk, New Valley and South Sinai were also sworn in today.

GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CONFERS WITH 'ALI

NC171352 Cairo MENA in English 1325 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 17 (MENA) -- Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali conferred today with the visiting deputy foreign minister of the German Democratic Republic on the Middle East situation in light of the efforts exerted to resolve the Palestinian and Lebanese crises.

The meeting also dealt with the European situation and bilateral relations. The German official had signed yesterday with Ambassador 'Umran ash-Shafi'i a joint agreement for cultural exchange within the framework of consolidation of bilateral relations.

Conveys Message

NC171729 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has met with the GDR's deputy foreign minister. During the meeting, they discussed international issues.

In their talks, 'Ali affirmed Egypt's interest in realizing peace and security in the Middle East as well as exerting all possible efforts for solving the Palestinian issue and Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

The GDR's deputy foreign minister handed 'Ali a message from the GDR's foreign minister. The message contains the GDR position on the Middle East crisis and its call for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories.

Confers With Ghali

NC172000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1934 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today received GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Gerd Koenig.

During the meeting, the executive program of the 1983-84 cultural agreement between both countries was signed.

The meeting was attended by Egyptian Ambassador in Berlin Salah Sha'rawi and GDR Ambassador in Cairo Hans-Juergen Weitz.

They made a general review of positions on various international issues such as the efforts for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, maintaining the unity of th OAU, and disarmament, as well as the efforts for lessening tension in Europe and the world at large.

The GDR deputy foreign minister extended an invitation to Ghali to visit Berlin, which Ghali accepted.

Departs Cairo 18 Mar

NC180838 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Gerd Koening left Cairo this morning following a 3-day visit to Egypt during which he held talks on the situation in the Middle East with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz, and Assistant Foreign Minister 'Umran ash-Shafi'i.

The GDR deputy foreign minister affirmed his country's support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and its understanding of Egypt's efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in the area. The Egyptian and GDR sides agreed on the need to bolster bilateral relations in various fields.

JEANE K'RKPATRICK ARRIVES IN CAIRO 17 MAR

NC171012 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) -- Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, arrived in Cairo from Tel Aviv on board a private plane this morning. During her 3-day visit to Egypt, Kirkpatrick will deliver a message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan to President Husni Mubarak. She will also meet with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

She was received at the airport by Foreign Ministry official Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton.

Meets With Mubarak

NC171046 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak received at the Al-Qubbah Palace this morning Jeane Kirkpatrick, the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, who arrived in Cairo earlier today. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton.

Confers With 'Ali

NC171524 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1502 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali held a long meeting this afternoon with Jeane Kirkpatrick, the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, who is currently visiting Cairo.

At the meeting, a review was made of the topics and issues presented to the UN General Assembly, all aspects of the Middle East situation, particularly those connected with the Lebanese and Palestinian questions, the ideas presented, and efforts exerted to achieve a just a comprehensive peace in the area. The discussions also broached the subject of bilateral relations. Mrs Kirkpatrick reviewed the results of her visit to Israel and discussions there.

Confers With Ghali

NC172023 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2002 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali tonight received the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick. The meeting touched upon the Middle East crisis, the Palestinian issue, the Lebanese crisis, the United Nations activities, as well as the international problems tackled by the international organization.

'ALI ASSESSES NONALIGNED SUMMIT RESULTS

NC171538 Cairo MENA in English 1340 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 17 (MENA) -- Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy premier and foreign minister, held a plenary meeting today that was attended by assistants to the foreign minister directors of the various departments at the ministry, and a number of nonaligned experts to evaluate results of the nonaligned summit held recently in New Delhi.

Following the meeting, Ambassador Ra'uf Ghanim said that the evaluation dealt with results reached by the summit particularly in regards to the Lebanese and Palestinian problems, the Middle East problem, and the Iraq-Iran war.

Evaluations also dealt with the role of Egyptian diplomacy toward all issues and the Egyptian suggestions introduced to the final declaration of the summit, particularly in regards to the economic aspect.

Egypt has suggested resuming dialogue between the North and the South and between the South and the South and reaching a just international economic system.

Ambassador Ghanim issued instructions for following up and executing resolutions of the summit in the political and economic fields.

DEFENDANTS IN AL-JIHAD CASE RELEASED 17 MAR

NC171924 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1736 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) -- The state security supreme prosecution today decided to release 10 of the defendants who were detained pending investigation in the Al-Jihad organization's case.

State Security Prosecution lawyer general counsellor Raja'i al-'Arabi stated this, adding that the prosecution is now studying the status of the other detainees pending the investigation in the religious cases preparatory to the adoption of stands on them.

CHIEFS OF STAFF WATCH 'DAWN' MANEUVER 16 MAR

NC161732 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Suez, 16 Mar (MENA) -- Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz today watched the tactical bombardment maneuver with live ammunition, carried out by the forces participating in the major "Dawn" maneuver, the final phases of which will be concluded tomorrow, Thursday.

Tanks, mechanized infantry units, mortars, and various kinds of other weapons were used in this maneuver.

The bombardment maneuver centered on a confrontation between two forces -- the first drawn from the Second Army and the other from the Third Army. The forces of the first side landed paratroopers to bring a pass under control to hamper the advance of the forces of the second side, which was on the offensive. The second side decided to move mechanized infantry forces, backed by tanks and heavy artillery, to crush the paratroopers while developing an offensive and placing its forces in a state of readiness to repulse any counterattacks that might be launched by the first side's back-up force.

While the operations were in progress, the chief of staff inspected the condition of the the mechanized infantry forces and ascertained that they were making hits on their targets.

After the maneuver, Lt Gen 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz stated that direct hits were made on targets during the bombardment, the tactical measures taken by the commanders were excellent, and the forces of both sides fully discharged their tasks.

He emphasized that in peacetime, the principal task of the armed forces is to train the forces and raise combat efficiency to prepare them to carry out any tasks assigned to them by the political command.

He said that today's bombardment maneuver was of the highest caliber in the training of forces because bombardment is carried out simultaneously with tactical training in handling tactical situations that confront commanders in the course of the operations.

The bombardment maneuver was watched by Major General Mustafa Mahmud, chief of staff of the Armed Forces Training Corps and director of the "Dawn" maneuver; by Major General Tahsin Shanan, commander of the Third Field Army, by Major General Mahfuz Hamdi, Second Army chief of staff, and by senior armed forces commanders.

OPPOSITION PARTY SUPPORTS MUBARAK ON PALESTINIANS

PM171245 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 14 Mar 83 p 2

[Unattributed report: "The Liberal Party's Statement Regarding the Palestine National Council (PNC) Resolutions"]

[Text] Liberal Party deputy leader Salah ar-Rifa'i has stated that, during its 8 March meeting, the party General Secretariat reviewed the resolutions passed by the PNC and decided to issue the following statement:

1. The Liberal Party supports all the statements made by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak regarding the PNC resolutions issued in Algiers recently.

2. The Liberal Party considers the Palestinian question to be one of the pan-Arab issues on which there is no disagreement among the Egyptian Government, parties, and people. It urges Egypt to continue to shoulder its responsibilities and work for the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and for a just and comprehensive peace.

3. The Liberal Party supports the peace strategy on which Egypt's Middle East policy is based.

4. The Palestinian statement's reference to the patriotic and progressive forces and army in Egypt is considered interference in Egypt's domestic affairs which we categorically reject and which we regard as an attempt to drive a wedge between the Egyptian people and their armed forces. The Liberal Party's reply is that in Egypt there is national unity, social peace and a socialist democratic system. We are confident that our armed forces are fully committed to their sacred duty of defending the homeland and constitutional legitimacy and are therefore above any suspicion and cannot be incited in this unacceptable manner.

PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT TO VISIT CAIRO 19 MAR

NC111729 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Portuguese President Antonio dos Santos Ramalho Eanes will visit Egypt from 19-23 March, during which he will have talks with President Husni Mubarak dealing with international questions, the Middle East situation and relations between Egypt and Portugal and the means of promoting them.

During the Portuguese president's visit to Egypt, several agreements will be signed to promote the Egyptian-Portuguese relations in trade, civil aviation, culture and tourism.

COMMUNIQUE: FIVE IRANIANS KILLED; MANDALI SHELLED

JN171722 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,031 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 17 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The glorious Iraqis are continuing their valiant activities against the aggressing enemy forces in the operational sectors. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Two were killed and one tube launcher and one hardware stockpile were destroyed in the central sector of che battlefield.

2. Two were killed east of Basra.

3. One was killed, one vehicle destroyed, and a quantity of serviceable military equipment found in the Maysan operational sector.

4. Today the rancorous Khomeyniite clique shelled the township of Mandali and the subdistrict of Khurmal, which is in the district of Halabjah. The enemy shelling damaged a number of civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 March 1983

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER LEAVES FOR MOSCOW 18 MARCH

JN180824 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0718 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) -- National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad left for Moscow today at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to the USSR at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Haddad will hold talks with the Soviet officials on parliamentary relations between the two countries and means to promote them in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

KING HUSAYN ARRIVES IN LONDON FOR TALKS 17 MAR

JN172146 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in London at 2030 Jordan time this evening to head the Arab seven-member committee delegation formed by the 12th Arab summit conference in Fes in its meeting with the British prime minister and senior British officials. His majesty was welcomed by representatives of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the British Government, Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohamed Boucetta, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, the British ambassador in Amman, the Jordanian ambassador to Britain, and Arab ambassadors to Britain. His Majesty King Husayn will chair a preliminary meeting of the committee this evening to discuss the committee's working plan and activities in the British capital.

DAILY VIEWS EUROPEAN ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST

JN181205 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Is the Desire For Peace Sufficient" SAWT ASH-SHA'B says: In 15 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, the Arabs have gone a long way in retreating from and revising their previously declared stands. Many barriers have been crossed, which at one time were taboo to even contemplate crossing, as that would have been tantamount to violating established pan-Arab principles.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: Since the Arabs have made all these retreats and concessions during the occupation years, and since Israel has made all these gains during the same period, why should Israel give up its gains so long as the Arabs themselves have started the retreat and are continuing to do so? We are saying this because the Western world, which is mainly responsible for creating the Palestinian people's problem, and which has been supporting Israel since its establishment on Arab territory, has forgotten its old enthusiasm for blaming the Arabs for their hesitation to opt for peace. They have ignored the Israeli rebellion against peace and international legitimacy and are satisfied with making mere courtesy statements to the Arabs without taking serious action to make Israel change its stands.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B says: Europe, whose interests and security are linked to those of the Middle East, should assume a special moral and historical responsibility for the Palestine question, because this question is a reflection of Europe's internal problems and policies on the Middle East. The Jews have been granted a homeland as a compensation for their suffering in Europe. Therefore, Palestinian national rights should also be respected after 50 years of suffering created by European policies since the turn of this century. SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: Britain, which was behind the decision to create Israel at the expense of the Palestinian people, and which undertook to establish the Zionist entity during the mandate period, is required today to lead the Western and European public to settle the Palestinians on a part of their territory. Britain knows more than anyone else that the problem is not as it was once described by its foreign secretary when he said that Palestinian terrorism reduces the Palestinians' chances for political action for their cause. It is Zionism, as a cultural and materialistic terrorism, which seeks to deny the Palestinains' rights and destroy their existence.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: The Arab world has gone a long way in retreating from and revising its previous stands to reach the Fes resolutions. Therefore, Europe must play an active role in encouraging the United States to penetrate the minefield which Israel has planted on the road to peace. International response to and adoption of the Arab desire for peace as a means of pressure on the Israelis-U.S. stand seem to be the only option left for the Arabs' search for peace.

TURKEY'S TURKMEN MEETS AL-JUMAYYIL 17 MARCH

NC171250 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] At 1100 today, Turkish Foreign Affairs Minister Ilter Turkmen arrived in Beirut on a surprise and brief visit to Lebanon. He was met at the airport by Minister of Justice and Information Roger Shaykhani and senior staff of the Turkish Embassy in Beirut.

Immediately on his arrival he proceeded to the Republican Palace where he met with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil conveying to him a message from the Turkish president.

After the meeting, the Turkish foreign minister said that he discussed with President al-Jumayyil international questions and bilateral relations. He said: I reaffirmed to President al-Jumayyil Turkey's support for the Lebanese Government's moves to restore stability and peace in the country.

He added: I also affirmed that we support the Lebanese Government's efforts for achieving the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanese territory. He said: We attach great importance to Lebanon as we believe that peace and harmony in Lebanon are two basic factors for peace in the whole area. We are likewise prepared to promote strong bilateral relations with Lebanon.

The Turkish minister added: We also discussed matters relating to international terrorism. I have a positive impression from President al-Jumayyil's reaction to this subject. He said: It is known that we have many problems with international terrorism and that Turkish diplomats have been the victims of this terrorism -- which in most cases has Lebanon as its source. In such a spirit we had deliberations with President al-Jumayyil. The Turkish minister is due to leave Beirut later today for home.

ISRAELI SOURCE QUOTED ON U.S. MARINE'S STATEMENT

NC181014 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in English 0930 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] The U.S. Administration is taking steps to stop incidents between American and Israeli troops in Beirut. This was made clear by the State Department spokesman in Washington. He said that the issue had been raised with the Israeli Government at the highest level.

Marine commandant General Robert Barrow has accused some Israeli soldiers of taunting the U.S. Marines and placing them in life-threatening situations. His allegations were contained in a letter to U.S. Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger. The defense secretary is standing by the charges of his Marine commandant.

However, the Marine commander in Lebanon Colonel James Mead told CBS News the incidents have never endangered the lives of his men.

Yesterday, Israeli defense sources firmly denied the charges made by the Marine commandant. They expressed amazement at his letter and said that any incident that had occurred has been thoroughly cleared up. The sources said that some of the incidents had stemmed from a lack of knowledge of existing agreements and almost all because of the absence of satisfactory arrangements for direct communications between the IDF and the U.S. Marines around Beirut.

REPORTAGE ON ATTACKS IN MULTINATIONAL FORCE

Force Reinforces Positions

NC171002 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The multinational force in Beirut today reinforced its positions while the Lebanese Army carried out raiding operations in the southern suburb of Beirut in search of armed men who attacked the Italian and U.S. soldiers, wounding 14 of them.

Israeli papers today exposed Israel's intentions, supporting the belief that it was behind the attacks against the international forces in Lebanon in an endeavor to force them to leave and to make the Lebanese Army seem incapable of maintaining security in the country. The Israeli papers say that the armed attacks on the French forces in the past and on the Italian and U.S. forces yesterday might mean the beginning of a phase which is not only aimed at convincing Paris, Rome, and Washington not to respond to the Lebanese Government's request to increase the number of their forces and to deploy them in southern Lebanon but also at inducing these capitals to think seriously of withdrawing their forces.

Force Committee Discusses Attacks

NC171913 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The multinational force's higher emergency committee yesterday devoted its meeting to discussing the attacks on the Italian and U.S. contingents in the past 2 days. The discussion focuse particularly on the measures that should supposedly be taken to confront the possibility of new attacks. This is particularly true because the impression prevailing among the foreign diplomats leans toward believing that the attacks launched against the multinational force have the political aim of distorting the state of stability and peace which greater Beirut is enjoying under the control of the Lebanese legitimate forces in cooperation with the multinational force.

The higher committee's meeting was attended by the ambassadors of the United States, France, Italy, and Britain, in addition to the team of Lebanese and international officers and the coordinator general of the force, Colonel Johnny 'Abduh.

The ambassadors of the states participating in the force have expressed their appreciation of the speed and dynamism which have accompanied the Lebanese Army's and the security forces' pursuit of the suspects and participants in the two incidents. The ambassadors considered the large-scale and disciplined raiding operation of the southern suburb as a successful model of the security operations that are usually carried out by the most skillful, most highly trained, and most efficacious security forces. This furnishes yet new evidence about the Lebanese Army's ability to impose security and assume its security responsibilities.

Netherlands Soldier Stabbed

NC171256 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] A soldier of the Netherlands contingent of the UN emergency forces has been stabbed near Haris township in southern Lebanon. Three persons, who had attacked some Netherlands soldiers, have been arrested and handed over to the Internal Security Forces.

French Soldier Fired On

NC180832 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] On As'ad al-As'ad Street in Ash-Shiyyah [in Beirut], armed elements in a car hurled a handgrenade and opened bursts of gunfire at a French soldier. The grenade exploded but did not cause any casualties.

Italians To Return Fire

NC171214 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Italian unit operating within the framework of the multinational force, Major Romano, in a statement to our radio today, said that his unit has taken strict security measures around its positions and that it has been given clear orders to immediately open fire at anyone who attempts to attack it from now on.

AFP Reports Attacks

NC171238 Paris AFP in English 1225 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Beirut, March 17 (AFP) -- An Italian soldier serving with the multinational buffer force was wounded here early today, bringing the total number of international troops wounded to 14 in the last three days.

A spokesman for the Italian contingent to the peacekeeping force said the soldier was hit when an Italian patrol tried to stop a minibus near the Sabra Palestinian refugee camp south of here before dawn today.

The three occupants of the vehicles fired on the patrol and fled the area.

Only ten minutes later, a building housing the Italian logistics batallion and medical corps was also hit by a hail of fire but nobody was hurt.

Late Tuesday [as received], five U.S. Marines and eight Italian soldiers were also wounded in three separate attacks on peacekeeping troops. The attacks, two of which were aimed at Italian units, took place around the international airport.

(In Jerusalem, Israeli radio reported that Israeli army units stationed in the Jabal Barush central Lebanese mountain area had been blocked by heavy snows for the last month. Their only link with the outside world was by radio, with helicopters flying in supplies from time to time, the radio said.)

In another development, a reliable source from Druze leader Walid Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) today denied reports that a PSP delegation was currently in Israel for talks. A PSP member, 'Atif Sallum, who was cited by the Israeli daily HA'ARETZ as being in Israel "now has no link with the party", the source said.

AS-SAFIR On Attacks

NC180807 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AS-SAFIR regards the attack on the multinational force as a negative factor aimed at obstructing what has been achieved in Washington.

The paper says that the U.S. plan for Lebanon and the Arab-Israeli conflict in general is not safe from sabotage, especially if voices are raised in Washington calling for the protection and withdrawal of the U.S. soldiers as long as their lives are threatened.

AS-SAFIR adds that Lebanon's plan to end the Israeli occupation, to have the Syrian and Palestinian forces withdraw and to regain Lebanon's complete unity and sovereignty is also not safe from sabotage, especially if the United States retreats or a weakness appears in the stand of the multinational forces.

ARMED IRANIANS REPORTEDLY ENTER BA'LABAKK AREA

NC172058 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that armed Iranian groups today entered the area of Hawr Ta'la in Ba'labakk and that they will distribute leaflets tomorrow, Friday, including a call for sectarian strife and warnings to the Lebanese Army.

A Voice of Lebanon correspondent reports that this [word indistinct] step might result in some negative developments in the Al-Biqa' area where there are elements that are disruptive to security and stability. All the Lebanese -- leaders and people -- had previously strongly condemned the actions of these elements and called for their expulsion from the Lebanese territories.

RFL ON SYRIAN EFFORT TO PARTITION AL-BIQA'

NC180738 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Official information has become available to the Lebanese Government that the Syrian regime intends to implement an operation to partition Al-Biqa', by bringing in armed Iranian groups to join the so-called Husayn al-Musawi group in Al-Biqa' and to declare an Islamic statelet in Ba'labakk and Al-Hirmil.

When this information was received, official and military contacts became active and President al-Jumayyil suddenly met with Prime Minister al-Wazzan after the prime minister had attended an extraordinary Islamic meeting at Dr Nasib al-Barbir's office and had visited Mufti Khalid.

Our correspondent in Al-Biqa' has reported that the Khomeyniites last night distributed leaflets in Al-Biqa' calling on the Lebanese Army to leave Ba'labakk and calling on the Shi'ite soldiers to leave their posts in the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks and to immediately join the Islamic movement.

Armed Iranian movements, concentrations, and some tracked vehicles have been seen between the townships of Brital and at-Tayyibah and in Hawr Ta'la. At the same time armed Khomeyniites moved radio transmitting devices from Syrian territory to the At-Tayyibah area south of Ba'labakk preparatory to using them in regular transmitting operations. Reports have indicated that 500 armed Iranians have entered Lebanon from Syria.

A responsible official source expressed to Radio Free Lebanon last night the belief that any security or political level, will be before anything else, a Syrian responsibility. The same source added that one of the measures which the state must take is severing diplomatic relations with Iran and adopting a more rigid stand on the illegal presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon.

It is expected that the Syrian-Khomeyniite calls [to join the Islamic movement] will today witness a sure rejection by Al-Biqa's inhabitants who have suffered a great deal from foreign practices. News sources expect that the Lebanese citizens in Al-Biqa) will adopt a unified stand and it has been learned that the sons of Ba'labakk have called for a boycott of the Friday sermon to be delivered today by Mustafa at-Tufayli and Husayn al-Musawi in a Ba'labakk mosque -- the sermon in which the Islamic statelet will be declared with the appointment of At-Tufayl as a spiritual authority for this movement, similar to the procedure followed in Khomeyni's land.

BRITISH ARMY DEPUTY COMMANDER ARRIVES 17 MAR

NC171932 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Marshall Sutton, deputy commander of the British Armed Forces, arrived in Beirut tonight to inspect the British contingent with the multinational force.

Sutton emphasized at the airport that the presence of the British contingent in Beirut is to help the state to impose its authority on all Lebanese territory.

REPORTAGE ON NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON

Tuwayni Discusses Talks

NC171904 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] According to this evening's latest news reports, the map of the coming political moves is as follows: Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni, member of the Lebanese delegation to Washington, returned home this afternoon. Tomorrow, Friday, [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil's personal envoy, will arrive in Beirut. Meanwhile, Dr Elie Salim, the minister of foreign and expatriates affairs, will hold discussions in London, Rome, and the Vatican prior to his return to Beirut. On Saturday, U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib will arrive in Israel together with Ambassador Morris Draper. On Sunday, the Israeli Cabinet will meet to give its reply to the proposed U.S. solutions to break the impasse that has faced the negotiations. On Monday, the results of the Lebanese-U.S. and the Israeli-U.S. meetings in Washington will appear at the session of negotiations to be convened in Netanya.

Before we broadcast the statement that was made by Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni upon his arrival in Beirut this afternoon, we note the information available about the results of the Washington meetings. A prominent government source today considered the new U.S. ideas forwarded by U.S. officials to the Lebanese delegation now in Washington as acceptable and as better than the preliminary U.S. perceptions. The source explained that the atmosphere that the Lebanese delegation portrayed to Lebanese officials yesterday inspires optimism as well as the possibility of progress being made concerning the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations to ensure the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

At Beirut airport, Ambassador Tuwayni said this afternoon:

[Begin recording] In fact, the talks were conducted by Minister Salim and Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam as the president of the republic's personal envoy. There was also the delegation of which I was a member. I believe that the talks have been very positive and that they have opened the path for getting out of the impasse in which we found ourselves during the negotiations. However, it is as yet inappropriate to talk about us having achieved anything final in Washington.

[Question] [Words indistinct] the negotiations now underway between Lebanon and Israel?

[Answer] Naturally, they were supposed to be a reassessment of the intricate problems that were facing us so we could look for new avenues. Several possibilities were forwarded and these possibilities will be discussed within the framework of the tripartite committee.

[Question] It is being said that Ambassador Habib is coming to the area this weekend.

[Answer] Yes, that is next week.

[Question] And that he has practical and good proposals as far as withdrawals from Lebanon are concerned.

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] What information is available about these withdrawals?

[Answer] What do you mean by information? When we receive information, we submit it [words indistinct]. On Sunday, they will be discussed by the Israeli Cabinet. Afterward, Ambassador Habib will convey to us the Israeli answers. We will see what they are.

[Question] It is known that the [words indistinct] in the United States when you were there discussing the Lebanese question, that Israel has hardened its attitude considerably, as usual, concerning...

[Tuwayni interrupts] The more obdurate Israel becomes, well, this is useless. [words indistinct]

[Question] Let me ask you the final question: Are you optimistic, Your Excellency Mr Ambassador, about any withdrawals from Lebanon?

[Answer] [?Too] optimistic, no. However, I am confident that the withdrawals will be achieved. [end recording]

Salam: Weinberger Meeting 'Useful'

NC180744 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] In Washington, Lebanese presidential representative [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam has explained that his meeting with the U.S. secretary of defense was good and useful and that he had sensed a U.S. determination to continue support for Lebanon and to work to liberate it. Moreover, Salam also sensed from Weinberger a good impression about the Lebanese Army and its capability to establish Lebanese legitimacy throughout Lebanon.

Radio Reviews U.S. Talks

NC170957 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The next week will be the touchstone in which the results of the Lebanese campaign in Washington, after New Delhi, will appear. It will then be possible to judge the United States, which made liberal promises and sided with the Lebanese stance without hesitation, because it is a just stance and anything else is false.

Therefore, President Ronald Reagan, as former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam stated after meeting him yesterday, will not retreat. He is determined to support Lebanon, solve its crisis, and complete all the withdrawals from its territory.

It can be said now that the Lebanese campaign, which President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has ordered and which former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam and Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim have sponsored and directed, has ended in numerous advantages, the least of which was that of explaining all aspects of the Lebanese stand through the information media and to the U.S. officials be it at the summit and leadership level or at the congress and to other U.S. executive personalities.

While Salam and Minister Salim have concluced their sessions of talks and consultations with a great deal of optimism, according to them, it is also noted that the questions of security arrangements and the framework of mutual relations were the topic of talks in Washington. It is not possible to ascertain the extent of progress achieved in this respect before the resumption of the tripartite negotiations in Netanya on Monday, although reports spoke of new U.S. ideas which Israel considers in advance as being inadequate.

If the negotiations are resumed on Monday in Netanya as we stated, U.S. envoy Philip Habib and his assistant Morris Draper are expected to return to the area before that. Official sources in Beirut say that they are expected to arrive in Lebanon on Tuesday after first stopping over in Tel Aviv where they will meet with Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

President Reagan's meeting with former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam and Minister Salim was the climax of the Lebanese activity in Washington. Salam conveyed to the U.S. President a message from President al-Jumayyil. Then Salam and Salim met with Vice President George Bush. The two meetings showed the existence of a clear U.S. policy on Lebanon for the first time since the era of President Eisenhower, according to a high-level U.S. official.

After his meeting with President Reagan, Salam emerged satisfied and declared to newsmen that he had a very useful meeting with President Reagan and that he met the U.S. President as a personal envoy of President al-Jumayyil. He added: Once more we received assurances with respect to the stance which we already know, namely President Reagan's determination to help Lebanon to be liberated from all the occupying forces and also to help the Lebanese Government to rebuild Lebanon.

Salam stressed that personally and in his capcity as U.S. President, President Reagan is exerting great efforts for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. He said that President Reagan affirmed tht he will not retreat from his stand to help Lebanon, and that he will continue his efforts so that Lebanon can once again emerge and be a primary center in the area.

He added that all Lebanese welcomed the U.S. Marines and expressed regret over yesterday's incident. He said: Three million Lebanese share my regret. He described the occurance as incidental [aradi] and no Lebanese party has any connection with it.

In a special statement, Minister Salim termed the talks [in Washington] as good and comprehensive and said: They have clarified the Lebanese Government's decision to build a strong state that knows its political borders. He said that the talks manifested all the redlines which Lebanon cannot exceed no matter what the dangers may be. Lebanon's course and objectivity in presenting its general policy have had considerable effect on U.S. Secretary of State Shultz who was convinced that Lebanon is serious in its negotiations with Israel and that it is prepared to offer all that is possible without affecting its sovereignty and its Arab relations.

FRANJIYAH'S WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE 15 MAR

NC161518 Ihdin Radio Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Yesterday, [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah held his weekly press conference in which he discussed the Nonaligned Conference in New Delhi and disclosed the contents of the two letters which he had received [during his term of presidency] from former U.S. Presidents Nixon and Ford. The messages affirmed the United States' support for Lebanon. Commenting on the two messages, President Franjiyah said: I have some messages from the U.S. presidents. If the content of these messages had been implemented, Israel would not now have been in Lebanese territory and Lebanon would not have reached the state it is in at present.

Despite the assurances of the part of two U.S. presidents regarding the friendly relations between Lebanon and the United States, and the description of the Lebanese-U.S. relations as "very special," the United States did not fulfill its pledges toward Lebanon's sovereignty and stability. The United States, instead of punishing Israel for its aggression against Lebanon, increased its financial aid to Israel instead of cutting it.

Franjiyah added: I had hoped that our foreign minister would refer to the archives in our Foreign Ministry in order to help him in strengthening the Lebanese stance vis-a-vis the United States. I hope that our foreign minister will not forget to take with him copies of these documents [Nixon, Ford messages] according to which he can assess the U.S. stance toward us.

Israel, after occupying a large part of Lebanese territory and following a series of destructive actions against Lebanon, comes today and asks for negotiations and also for a price in return for its withdrawal from Lebanon. If sound logic is adopted in the United States, it would have specified a limit of a few hours for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from our country and it should also have sent a commission to Lebanon to review the results of the aggression and destruction. It should also have allocated a sum of money for the reconstruction of Lebanon which could have been deducted from its aid to Israel. You, Americans, have guaranteed the Israeli entity. Will you define the framework of this entity? You have pledged to help it in case of any aggression against it. Will you determine the kind of aggression and the way of defending Israel against this aggression? Israel has declared its Galilee security plan, the limits of which are 40 km north of Israel. Does the United States possess any map that shows the area of these 40 km? When Israel exceeded this distance, did Israel receive any U.S. note to stop its expansion?

I hope that the Lebanese negotiators headed by [former] Prime Minister Salam, who has lived through the Arab and Lebanese issue since its very beginning, will take the stances he is known for and I hope also that Prime Minister Salam carried with him a recommendation from President al-Jumayyil that the negotiations, which have been in progress for several weeks now, should have a time limit for a complete unconditional withdrawal or for the cancellation of the negotiations. Let the Israelis remain on our territories till God provides us with a new Saladin.

On the Nonaligned Conference, President Franjiyah said: This week, the Nonaligned Conference took place in New Delhi and we want to focus on the speeches made by Presidents Amin al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad.

President al-Jumayyil gave a vivid picture of the Lebanese situation and clarified the limitations which cannot be exceeded during the negotiations, namely, national conciliation, full sovereignty, and Arab solidarity. He also highlighted the Lebanese objective, namely, the withdrawal of the forces of the Israeli enemy and those of the fraternal peoples in order to keep Lebanon for the Lebanese. He said: I support President al-Jumayyil's speech as it was a realistic interpretation of our sufferings, our present situation and our aspirations.

President Franjiyah added: President al-Asad's speech was a comprehensive one, which covered all the developments in the area, and which also reaffirmed fraternal Syria's commitment to bolster Lebanon in its endeavors for the liberation of its territories and the maintenance of its independence. The speech gave sufficient guarantees for facilitating President al-Jumayyil's mission and for preserving the Lebanese entity and territories. I think that this is enough to convince those who abuse patriotism and religions.

After the above introduction, the following dialogue [read by announcer] took place between President Franjiyah and journalists:

Question: Mr President, did President al-Jumayyil's heading the Lebanese delegation to the Nonaligned summit benefit Lebanon in the results and resolutions issued by the conference and the meetings of President al-Jumayyil with President al-Asad and with Mr 'Arafat?

Answer: The vivid picture presented by President al-Jumayyil to half of the world [the nonaligned states] is quite enough to make his mission a success.

Question: What are the steps required for consolidating the relations between Syria and Lebanon?

Answer: The relations between Lebanon and fraternal Syria, as they were in the past and as they are at present, are quite good with the exception of those who pretend to be acting in the interest of liberating Lebanon or toward safeguarding one of its sects. This is the only problem that existed, and still exists, in Lebanon. President al-Asad is most interested in preserving its neighbor, Lebanon.

Question: President Carter, the designer of Camp David has put Lebanon on the agenda of his visits to the countries of the area. Do you think that this will help Lebanon in emerging from its crisis?

Answer: If Carter is interested in Lebanon, he should have shown an interest when he was in office as president. But as he is now an ordinary citizen, I do not think he will play any role. And I do not think that he is concerned for Lebanon's well-being because it was he who planned for the immigration of the Lebanese citizens in the interest of Israel.

Question: Mr President, it has been reported that President al-Jumayyil is endeavoring to end the hostility between the Phalangists and the North. Did these contacts yield fruitful results within the framework of the general Lebanese conciliation?

Answer: This statement has been made by someone who has not the authority to make it. Therefore, it is not worth mentioning.

CARTER'S ACTIVITIES IN DAMASCUS REPORTED

JN171830 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Telephone Dispatch from Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris -- live or recorded]

[Text] Former U.S. President Carter's political program was confined to an approximately 2-hour meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who left for the British capital this morning. The two presidents' meeting did not result in any unexpected development. It is well known that their viewpoints on a peaceful settlement in the Middle East are diametrically opposed.

Following the meeting, a spokesman for the Syrian president said that President al-Asad briefed Carter on the factors which Syria deems necessary for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region. Carter has thus far not made any statement, but journalists heard him say that the meeting was cordial and frank. There might be new details at the press conference which Carter will hold tomorrow afternoon before his departure for Morocco after a brief stopover in Beirut for talks with President Amin al-Jumayyil.

Diplomatic observers here indicated a basic matter which Syria must have taken into consideration. These sources believe that all that has been said about the private nature of Carter's tour is untrue. They think that Carter was entrusted by the White House with the task of searching for the Palestinian viewpoint on the connection between the Camp David accords and Reagan's plan. Carter will submit a final report to President Reagan at the end of the former's tour.

Carter's status as a former president eliminates the need for a presidential envoy and allows Carter to speak without any diplomatic controls or U.S. commitments. Hence, the political circles here see why the Syrian capital has not attached a large importance to Carter's visit. However, this has not prevented a warm reception and hospitality. The two presidents and their wives lunched together today. Meanwhile, the Syrian Foreign Ministry did its utmost to ensure the comfort of the U.S. guest. Carter and his wife spent the day touring the most important historical sites in Damascus. Nothing disturbed this tour expect for some Iranians living in Damascus who accidentally met with Carter during his tour of the old markets. They raised their fists in the air and shouted: "God is great; death to the Americans." However, Carter retained his composure and soon this unplanned demonstration broke up.

DAMASCUS RADIO REPORTS GROMYKO STATEMENT ON SYRIA

JN180854 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko received at noon today Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, Syrian ambasador to the USSR. The talks during this meeting dealt with the ties of friendship and mutual cooperation between Syria and the USSR. The two sides stressed the need to develop and strengthen these ties in all fields to achieve the objectives of the Syrian and USSR peoples.

Gromyko expressed the USSR's continued determination to support the defense capabilities of Syria, considering it the main front facing imperialism and Zionism in the Middle East. He also affirmed the insistence of the USSR on guaranteeing the Palestinian people's national rights, especially to determine their own destiny and establish their own independent state.

The ambassador expressed Syria's pride in the high standard of strategic friendship between the two countries, which will have a positive effect on the Arab nation's struggle, independent decision, and will.

TISHRIN CITES POLICY ON LEBANON, PEACE EFFORTS

JN180950 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Press review]

[Text] In its "Behind the News" column, TISHRIN publishes a commentary under the headline "Syria, The Firm Stand." The paper says: We are not exaggerating when we say that Syria has never before been subjected to such hostile propaganda campaigns as is the case these days. Following the provocative, biased AP report 3 days ago about the Syrian air defenses' alleged threat to the security of the region, REUTER published a report full of lies and fallacies about the Syrian position on Lebanon, especially with regard to the current Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations. While the first report was attributed to military experts and diplomats who wanted to provide the United States and Israel with justifications, excuses, and opportunities for aggression, the second report was attributed to diplomats who wanted to cast doubt on the sound Syrian stand by claiming that Syria's policy on the situation in Lebanon, and the above-mentioned negotiations in particular, is different from its declared policy.

The paper adds: Regardless of these claims, Syria would like to reaffirm its frank stand that it categorically and firmly rejects any Israeli military presence on Lebanese territory, no matter how limited or whatever the framework, on the basis that such a presence threatens Lebanon's entity, independence, and sovereignty. Israel would certainly try to exploit the legitimacy of such a presence to beef up its military forces and spread them out like an oil slick over large areas of Lebanese territory. Furthermore, such a presence would constitute a serious threat to Syrian national and pan-Arab security and to the future, existence, and destiny of the Arabs. This is as far as the so-called security arrangements are concerned.

TISHRIN concludes: What Syria says in public is the same as what it is seeking to achieve through deliberations, consultations, and meetings. Syria does not have two policies. What Syria says in public reflects its established policy. It is not a coverup for a different policy, especially since that policy deals with very important issues which are crucial to Syria and the entire Arab nation.

Under the headline "There Will Be No Peace Under Coercion and Usurpation," TISHRIN says in another commentary today: Syria has rejected the Camp David accords on the basis that it adheres to a just and comprehensive solution to the conflict. Syria said at the time that a peace would include the following principles: complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to return and determine their own destiny. Syria considered the Camp David accords a blow to real peace efforts and the peace process. It is a separate deal that has nothing to do with peace; it is a deal simply aimed to remove Egypt from the Arab world and place it in the enemy camp.

The paper adds: Syria repeatedly warned at the time that the Camp David accords would cause many wars and much misery and tragedy. Indeed, following these accords, the Arab homeland went through a period of utter loss, disunity, and weakness. Israel became more arrogant, following the moderate line it was compelled to follow after the October war.

Israel carried out repeated aggressions against Arab territories and showed its true intentions by annexing the occupied territories. Its recent invasion of Lebanon represented the peak of aggression and barbarism. The Israeli leaders' current threats confirm that Israel is preparing for a large-scale aggression against Syria.

TISHRIN continues: What Syria predicted took place. The Arab nation is still reaping the bitter fruits of the Camp David accords. Still, the conspirators and defeatists are actively calling for more capitulation these days in the name of realism, and for not missing a good opportunity. They are placing the responsibility of their deviation from Arab solidarity and the Arab summit resolutions on steadfast Arabs like Syria, who uphold their rights and principles.

TISHRIN says: What Syria said yesterday it will repeat today and tomorrow. Syria is interested in the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the region. But this peace has its basic principles; Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian rights, including a Palestinian state. Treason and capitulation have never been a basis for peace, otherwise, Marshal Petain would have remained in power in France, De Gaulle would have failed to expel the Nazis, and the USSR would not have emerged today as a great socialist power.

The paper concludes: Syria, which is now pooling all its resources, striving to achieve a strategic balance and confronting the enemy's aggressive and expansionist plans, is, in fact, removing any harm to its people, the Arab nation, and a just peace. There can be no peace by coercion, usurpation, occupation, expansion, and annihilation. Whoever confronts the fascist Zionists is defending the real cause of peace.

KHADDAM DEPARTS FOR LONDON MEETING 17 MARCH

JN171242 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Damascus this morning for London to take part in the Arab seven-member ministerial committee entrusted with explaining the Fes Arab summit resolutions to the permanent UN Security Council member states.

Reports from London say that the Arab committee will hold talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Francis Pym, secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, tomorrow.

SHAMIR, BEGIN MEET, VIEW U.S. PROPOSALS

TA171600 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Report by Moshe Hakohen]

[Text] This afternoon Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir discussed the proposals brought this morning by U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. The document Lewis brought summarizes and details the ideas raised during the 3 days of Shamir's talks in Washington this week. The Americans are proposing a series of arrangements they think can substitute for Israel's demand for a permanent military presence in southern Lebanon. Apparently involved are, among other things, Israeli aerial reconnaissance flights over southern Lebanese territory and some kind of occasional [mizdamnin] ground patrols. This would be part of a joint Israel-Lebanese supervisory committee and arrangements for operational, and intelligence cooperation between the Israeli and Lebanese armies intended to prevent the terrorists' return to the area.

Political sources in Jerusalem have said that Israel's official position, as expressed by a cabinet decision, includes a demand to establish five IDF observation posts on Lebanese territory. However, Israel has already expressed willingness to study alternative arrangements to these stations. One of the possibilities mentioned was that of regular joint IDF-Lebanese army patrols in the southern areas. In consultations to be held at the end of the week in Jerusalem preparatory to the Cabinet session, the following question will be considered: Should Israel make further concessions on this point.

Another matter, one not mentioned in the U.S. proposals, is the role of Major Haddad's units in the Southern Lebanese security arrangements. As Israel sees it, this role is the cornerstone of any future settlement. Lebanon has already agreed to integrate Haddad's units in the Lebanese Army, but for the time being rejects Israel's demand that Haddad himself head the Lebanese force in the south. In Shamir's talks in Washington this matter was mentioned briefly, and it was agreed to continue the contacts on this matter. In any case, Israel has made it clear that it would not be willing to have UNIFIL or any multinational force stationed in southern Lebanon, and the impression in Jerusalem today is that the United States will not try to force its position on this matter on Israel.

At the beginning of next week, Ambassadors Habib and Draper are expected to return to the region to continue the negotiations. also at the start of next week the direct negotiations between Israel and Lebanon will resume in Netanya, where the participating parties will discuss the new proposals concerning the security arrangements and the normalization of relations between the two countries, a matter on most of whose points an understanding in principle has been **achieved**, according to political sources in Jerusalem.

LEVI COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH UNITED STATES

TA171429 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has said that there are three matters at the center of the talks with the United States: The settlement in Lebanon, the possibility of establishing autonomy, and the increase of Soviet involvement in Syria. Levi noted that apart from ensuring Lebanon's sovereignty, the United States also wants to stress to the Arabs that it is capable of pressuring Israel to get what they want. He said that while in the political campaign the Americans are seeking to connect the matter of Lebanon with Judaea and Samaria, Israel will not abandon an agreement signed with the United States. Levi emphasized that Israel could not give up its security just to maintain good relations with the United States. He was speaking to students at Haifa University.

LIKUD MK ROM CRITICIZES U.S. POLICY

TA171257 Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in Hebrew 17 Mar 83 p 9

[Report by Adar Qeysari of an interview with Likud Mk Yosef Rom: "The U.S. Concept Has Gone Bankrupt" -- date and place not given]

[Text] Mk Yosef Rom has been mentioned recently as a candidate for the post of deputy defense minister. Rom, who is a member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, has some interesting views on the issue of the Peace for Galilee war and the U.S. involvement in the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Question: In your opinion, did the United States know how to take the right advantage of the achievements of the Peace for Galilee Operation, and has its status in the Middle East become stronger as a result of the campaign?

Answer: The Soviet Union regarded the Syrian and PLO involvement in Lebanon as events that do not overlap Soviet interests. Therefore it did not intervene, other than through lukewarm statements, as long as the IDF activities were restricted to purely Lebanese territory. It was because of this that the United States had a fantastic opportunity to take advantage of the operation's success; to remove all the foreign forces from Lebanon and consolidate a pro-U.S. Government there. However, the United States made a strategic mistake when, instead of limiting itself to a significant achievement in Lebanon without linking it to other events in the Middle East, it decided to intervene and tie the achievement of the agreement in Lebanon to the Reagan plan and the Palestinian cause. The presentation of the Regan plan on 1 September 1982 by the U.S. President was a threat to the Soviets' political and military influence over the PLO and, indirectly, over Syria itself as well. This is because the combination of the Reagan plan with the arrangement in Lebanon represents a "pax Americana" [last two words in Latin] in the region, without any Soviet influence.

Question: And it was in reaction to this that the Soviets reacted?

Answer: The Russians' reaction was not late in coming, and as early as the last days of Brezhnev's rule the Soviets decided to react to the U.S. political challence, the Reagan plan, and a military challenge -- sending the Marines to Lebanon -- by positioning a strategic SAM-5 system in Syria and sending further modern weapons systems there, systems that have to date been restricted to the Warsaw Pact. Three are also hints, mainly from Syria, that the Soviet political and military umbrella has not only been expanded to cover Syria itself, but also the Syrian forces in Lebanon.

The Soviet strategic signal now being reinforced by the Andropov administration informs us that the Soviet Union will not permit a blow to its status in its Middle East satellites. Accorrdingly, it is very doubtful whether it will be possible to arrive at an arrangement in thenegotiations with Lebanon without Syrian-Soviet agreement, and it appears that the United States also understands today that it made a strategic mistake in the method and timing of the presentation of the Reagan plan that tied the negotiations with Lebanon to comprehensive negotiations about the Israeli-Arab conflict.

JERUSALEM SOURCES REACTION TO SOVIET WARNING

TA171346 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Jerusalem political sources say that the warning made last night by the Soviet ambassador to Beirut gives a more serious nature to the presence of the Soviet missiles and advisers in Syria. This proves that the Soviets are willing to go to great lengths in their involvement in Syria.

The Jerusalem political sources stressed that this warning must arouse international concern about the risk of Syria becoming a completely Soviet satellite and receiving defense from Moscow if war breaks out. In an interview for the broadcasting station Voice of Lebanon, Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov said that if war broke out between Israel and Syria, the Soviet Union would intervene.

MA'ARIV Comments

TA171249 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Mar 83 p 5

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "Soldatov's Warning"]

[Text] The announcement by Aleksandr Soldatov, the Soviet ambassador to Beirut, that the Soviet Union would intervene in the event of war between Israel and Syria has nothing new in it at all.

At the peak of the Lebanon war, Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev sent two letters to Hafiz al-Asad promising that "in the event of an Israeli attack against Syrian territory, the Syrians would not have to fight alone."

These two letters were sent to Damascus on 23 June and 7 August 1982.

At that time, Na'if Hawatimah, the head of the Marxist terrorist organization -- "The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine" -- rushed to Aleksandr Soldatov, the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, and asked for the Soviet Union's help in rescuing the terrorists from besieged Beirut, but the Soviet ambassador's repeated reply was "I will cable Moscow." Naiif Hawatimah was furious about this, because at the beginning of August, Brezhnev had sent a cable to Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO leader, with a promise that Moscow "is backing you 1,000 percent." (This was quoted by PRAVDA on 6 August) However, when he was asked for action, he received the following reply from the ambassador: "I will cable."

The "1,000 percent" took the form of Aleksandr Soldatov's willingness to give Yasir 'Arafat and his friends refuge in the Soviet Embassy, but the Soviet Union was not prepared to threaten the use of force against Israel in Lebanon.

The conclusion drawn then by both Israel and the United States from the Soviet statements was that the Soviet Union was restricting its commitment to defend Syria to Syrian territory alone, and was not prepared to expand the field of the existing defense pact between Damascus and Moscow to also cover Lebanese territory. This has been known for some time in Jerusalem and Washington, and the governments of the United States and Israel did not need announcements by Ambassador Soldatov over the Voice of Lebanon to learn this "secret."

There is nothing new in this announcement. Ambassador Soldatov permitted himself to make the public statement because he is sure that Israel does not intend to attack Syria.

DEFENSE MINISTER ARENS TOURS GOLAN, LEBANON

TA171757 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens toured the Golan Heights and Lebanon today, meeting with commanders of divisions and hearing about the deployment and activities on the line. Here in the studio is our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal:

Minister Arens visited two IDF positions and held a long discussion with the commanders. He was accompanied, among others, by Chief of levi, Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan, chief of staff designate Major General Moshe Levi, Major General Amir Drori Hayim 'Erez and the IDF spokesman. Arens told the commanders that he had come to observe the problems in the sector. I know, he said, that the missions are not easy, but it is the army's unique talent to deal with just such difficult problems. It is not our intention to remain here, Arens said. We want to leave and we will do so, but we must do so in the most successful way so that Katyushas do not again fall on Galilee.

The negotiations with Lebanon, Arens added, require patience. If we do not have patience, we may be tempted to leave before an agreement is established. We are approaching an arrangement, Arens repeated, and the conditions for this are patience and the ability to stand firm. The difficulty falls upon you and your men, we added, and the conditions are not easy. I thank you for fulfilling this task.

In the meeting, the matter of the incidents with the Marines also arose and Arens begged the commanders to refrain from incidents, as far as possible.

SOURCES DENY MARINE CORPS HEAD'S ALLEGATIONS

TA171233 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Israeli military sources have denied remarks published on behalf of the U.S. Marine Corps commandant to the effect that Israel initiates incidents between the Marines and the IDF, and alleging that the IDF soldiers humiliate and insult the Marines. The Israeli military sources expressed astonishment at the publication of the Marine commander's letter in the U.S. media the day after the incident in which U.S. Marines were injured by terrorist fire inside Beirut.

The sources emphasized that all the incidents that have occurred since the beginning of the year have been clarified and discussed by the sides at all levels. It was proved that some of the incidents stemmed from the Americans' ignorance of the agreements, and others originated in the presence of U.S. troops in IDF-controlled areas. The sources added that there were no direct contacts between the IDF soldiers and the Marines, and in all the clarifications between the commanders of both parties no remarks were voiced liable to insult the Marines and their uniform.

It was reported this morning that the U.S. Marines Corps commandant had complained to Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger that the IDF soldiers were endangering the Marines, and had suggested that a firm line be adopted in order to prove to Israel who is the boss. General Robert Barrow claimed that the Israelis were constantly provoking his soldiers and initiating clashes out of specific political motives.

IDF SPOKESMAN DENIES PLO STATEMENTS ON PRISONERS

TA171826 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] One of the PLO's leaders, Abu Jihad, [Khalil al-Wazir], claims that two Israeli prisoners were recently shot dead by the IDF while they were traveling in a car with three PLO members near Beirut. The IDF spokesman has denied this out of hand. Abu Jihad said this in an interview with AFP without giving any further details.

In reaction, the IDF spokesman has said that over the last few months there has been no incident in which the IDF opened fire at a local car and killed five people.

Midway through last month two terrorists and a Lebanese driver were killed by IDF fire when they tried to attack an IDF roadblock in the Monte Verde region east of Beirut. The dead were identified by IDF forces and the Lebanese Army.

As for the claim made by Abu Jihad that Israel has transferred prisoners from the Ansar camp in southern Lebanon to its territory, the IDF spokesman said that all the terrorists arrested during the war are in the Ansar camp and have not been transferred to Israel. The Red Cross representatives have a precise list of all the Ansar detainees and they are entitled to visit them whenever they want to, the IDF spokesman said. In the AFP interview, Abu Jihad claimed that Israel had not given the Red Cross a list of the detainees. The IDF spokesman has said that Abu Jihad's statement is an outright lie.

HA'ARETZ Report

TA170750 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Following the publication of remarks by Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] that two Israeli prisoners were killed when IDF soldiers fired at the car they were travelling in along with three Palestinian terrorists, defense establishment sources recalled that since the eight Israeli soldiers were captured near Bhamdun on 4 September, the Red Cross had not visited two of them, Yosef Graf and Nisim Salem. Meanwhile, the six other prisoners held by the PLO have been interviewed on television and have been visited by the Red Cross. Concerning the other two, it has been reported only that they are being held by Ahmad Jibril's organization, but no one has spoken to them or seen them since their capture.

The defense sources think that it is likely that the PLO leaders are trying to create an alibi for themselves by means of a fabricated story about shooting at a car.

It seems that Israel will now increase the pressure of its demand through diplomatic and other channels to enable the Red Cross to visit Yosef Graf and Nisim Salem.

JUNBLATT ENVOYS MEET OFFICIAL IN BEGIN'S OFFICE

TA180741 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Mar 83 p 1

[Report by the Arab affairs correspondent]

[Text] The emissaries of the Lebanese Druze Socialist Progressive Party, Dr 'Atif Sallum)and (Hisham Nasr ad-Din), who are on a secret visit to Israel, met with the director general of the prime minister's office, Matityahu Shmu'elevitz.

Their party's spokesman in Beirut issued a statement yesterday evening denying Wednesday's HA'ARETZ report revealing the delegation's visit. The spokesman said that the two do not represent the party, which has no contacts with the Zionist enemy. It should be noted that (Nasr ad-Din) commands the party's militia in the 'Alayh area, which last month attacked the town's Christian quarter, pillaging and burning homes.

In their talks in Israel, the two claim that they are envoys of Walid Junblatt and that Israel must recognize his exclusive leadership over the Druze in Lebanon and his party's control of the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh area.

The two envoys refuse to speak to journalists and react to their party's spokesman's statement or Junblatt's anti-Israeli declarations in Damascus early yesterday morning.

SOVIET JEWRY CONFERENCE CLOSES WITH DECLARATION

TA172027 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The Jerusalem Conference for Soviet Jewry has ended by calling on the entire world to act to open the Soviet Union's gates, relese the prisoners of Zion, stop the persecution of Jews who want to live according to their tradition, and stop the Kremlin's anti-Semitic campaign. The declaration was signed by representatives of Jewish communities from the free world, the leaders of Christian churches, representatives of the academic world, jurists, parliamentarians, and representatives of governments from 32 countries.

The concluding declaration also said that all the power of the Soviet state was directed against the Jewish minority in the Soviet Union. The conference told the Jews in the Soviet Union: Your struggle is our struggle, and many people in the world for whom human dignity is of cardinal importance are party to your struggle.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that more than 3,000 people took part in the closing session. Prime Minister Menahem Begin told them that the conference was only the beginning of the struggle and that they must continue the struggle in all the countries of freedom. He expressed thanks for the Jewish-Christian solidarity which was manifested at the conference.

Begin Speech

TA180725 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpt from speech by Prime Minister Menahem Begin at the closing session of the Jerusalem Conference for Soviet, Jewry on 17 March Jerusalem -- recorded]

[Text] To demand great manifestations is not enough. A civic campaign in the wake of the Jerusalem conference must go on all over the world in all free countries. The Jewism communities and our gentile friends will prove that on this just cause they stand together and this is the reason, as I would believe, that this great conference is the beginning of a permanent campaign to set free our brethren and we have the experience in our time. A just cause must prevail and therefore we believe wholeheartedly that the cause of the Soviet Jewry, of the Jews living in the Soviet Union and wishing in their hundreds of thousands to come home will ultimately triumph. It won't be easy. It will be a long struggle, but victory in that struggle because of the justice of the cause for which it is waged will surely come. This is our unbreakable faith.

KIRKPATRICK CITED ON SOVIET JEWS, SYRIA

TA161238 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1140 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, granted the Voice of Israel an interview, in which she reacted to the incident in which the U.S. Marines stationed in Beirut were hit today. She also expressed her opinion on the Soviet involvement in Syria and replied to questions on the UN status and the importance of the Jerusalem conference for Soviet Jews. 'Oded Ben-'Ami talked to Jean Kirkpatrick:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] It was regrettable incident, whose perpetrators are people who wish to extend the war and prevent peace from coming. This is what U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jean Kirkpatrick believes, when asked about the incident this morning in which U.S. Marines were hit near the beirut airport. She cannot think of anyone who might entertain the thought of U.S. military combat units' involvement in Lebanon. [as heard]

[Kirkpatrick -- in English] I think everybody understands what a multinational peacekeeping force is. Presumably we are also realistic enough to know that sometimes peacekeepers can be hurt by warmakers.

[Ben-'Ami translates the above into Hebrew and continues] Regarding the Soviet intervention, she said that this is unacceptable, dangerous, and escalates the tension from the Soviet side in the area of the arms race. The United States is convinced that such involvement should be rejected. The Syrians, Kirkpatrick says, are making a mistake in allowing the Soviets such great presence in their country.

[Kirkpatrick -- in English] Well, one doesn't know whether its a reaction to the change of rulers in the Soviet Union, or whether it's a reaction to the devastating defeat of the Syrians, who were armed by the Soviet weapons, and a certain loss of prestige, therefore, for Soviet arms. I would rather guess the latter.

[Ben-'Ami translates the above into Hebrew and continues] As for the significance of the Jerusalem Conference on Soviet Jewry, Jean Kirkpatrick said that it is very impressive to see how many countries dispatched representatives to the conference and how high the standard of the delegates is.

[Kirkpatrick -- in English] I think it shows a powerful international outrage about the denial of the right of immigration to Soviet Jewry, and a really very encouraging solidarity with those Soviet Jews who seek to immigrate to Israel.

[Ben-'Ami translates the above into Hebrew and continues] Finally I asked the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations whether there was any point in maintaining that body as part of the fabric of the interbloc state of affairs, and in view of the predictable results of each vote there. Ms Kirkpatrick repeated that most of the contacts within the UN walls are negative in their attitude toward the United States itself in that it has failed to properly organize itself.

[Kirkpatrick -- in English] I think that the independent agencies of the United Nations -- the UNHCR, or WHO, UNICEF, those agencies -- do very valuable humanitarian and scientific work which needs to be recognized and supported.

[Ben-'Ami translates the above into Hebrew] [end recording]

On U.S.-Israeli Relations

TA161213 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1105 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] The attack against the U.S. Marines is distressing, but it will not lessen the United States' determination to actively help establish peace in the Middle East, Jean Kirkpatrick, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations who is visiting Israel, said a short while ago. On the negotiations with Lebaonon, the ambassador said that there is some degree of truth in the Israeli feeling that the United States is acting to deprive Israel of the fruits of its victory, and this is because of the difference in the two countries' goals. Our correspondent Moshe Hakohen heard the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Jeane Kirkpatrick:

[Begin Kirkpatrick recording -- In English, in progress] Insofar as securing the fruits of Israeli victory conflicts with establishing a sovereign, independent Lebanon. [end recording]

[Hakohen] The United States is striving to establish a sovereign, independent Lebanon while maintaining Israel's security.

Israel's order of priorities is the opposite, Kirkpatrick said, and this is the reason for the differences of opinion between them. To the extent that the U.S. goal clashes with Israel's, the United States stands behind its goals. Therefore, there is some truth to the feeling that the United States is acting to deprive Israel of the fruits of its victory.

Ambassador Kirkpatrick also said she agrees with Ambassador Samuel Lewis' assessment that U.S.-Israeli relations have recently been in a difficult state, largely because of Israel's action in Lebenon. However, she believes that the deep foundations of the relations, which are based on common interests and values, will overcome the differences of opinion.

She also said that in a helicopter tour yesterday over settlements in Judaea and Samaria, she was impressed by the fact that they are being set up in nonpopulated areas, and by the expanses of wilderness remaining in those area. However, as a representative of the Reagan administration, she stood behind the President's position that the expansion of the settlements harms the prospects for peace.

EYTAN ON HIS CAREER, CURRENT ISSUES, OPPONENTS

TA180921 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Mar 83 p 13

[Report on interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan by Yo'el Marcus at the former's office; date not given]

[Text] In his last month in office, Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan is in a battling mood, does not regret any of his deeds as chief of staff and is more than at peace with himself, and with his worldview. In an open and sincere talk I conducted with him this week at his office, with the volumes of the ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA at his back -- for some reason, these books appear in the background of photographs taken of his predecessors -- he somewhat bitterly rejects allegations that he is the most political chief of staff the IDF has ever had. "When Mota [Mordekhay Gur] and Dado [David El'azar] spoke about the West Bank, people said that their talk was security-oriented. When I say that the State of Israel cannot be defended without Judaea and Samaria, people say that I am political."

He "does not give a damn" about the accusations leveled against him. Apparently referring to former chiefs of staff who are current members of the Alignment, he says, "It upsets them that I am the first chief of staff who was not appointed by them. I am not courting anybody. I do not lick the boots of anybody, either above me or below me, and I do not have considerations such as that because I want to become the commerce and industry minister. I will say what I deem right.

"Had we been attacked in 1973 on the 1967 borders, we would all be laying in lines under wreaths of flowers," he says without concealing his feelings about his critics. "You know, in the Yom Kippur war there were people who suggested that we surrender, yes, they really suggested that we surrender. The day will come when I will publish their names," thus leading us to understand that the release of the names will raise hell. "I am being criticized for the war in Lebanon. Mota (Gur) says that it could have been conducted otherwise." Eytan says reacting to criticism that many casualties were in vain. "A good plan is a plan that proves successful. According to Mota's plan of 1967 regarding Jersualem, dozens of people were killed in 24 hours. Throughout the war in Lebanon there were fewer casualties in builtup zones than in those 24 hours in Jerusalem. We lost eight soldiers in the occupation of West Beirut, three of them in an accident and two of them in the outskirts of the city." [figures as published]

In retrospect, would we have conducted the war in Lebanon differently? He replies negatively. "Although I am the architect of the plan (one may infer from this formulation that Eytan disclaims Sharon's paternity rights over the Peace for Galilee campaign), I may still say that the plan was good and met all the objectives. The army proceeded in a professional and experienced manner and did not act in a trampling fashion. We could have left a terrible devastation behind us and it is good that we won without resorting to this. It is better not to think what the Americans would have done had they been in our place."

Compared to the immense achievements of the 6-day war, does the deluxe war in Lebanon seem a minor military achievement? The chief of staff does not jump in his chair on hearing this question. "Had this been a free-for-all, a catch as-catch-can battle, the war would have been finished in a trice. The government never ordered me to confine myself to 40 kms (Eytan is thus contradicting Begin's announcements to President Reagan and to the Knesset that the order issued to the IDF pertained to 45 kms. My mission was to destroy the terrorists' infrastructure in Lebanon and this was fully accomplished. This is the first war in which the Arabs have really surrendered. However, also this time the same thing that happened in previous wars occurred: When the Arabs were falling on their faces, we were stopped. This was also the case that Friday when Begin phoned me and ordered me to stop, although the Syrians were collapsing and their T-72 tanks were burning like candles. The only time when we were allowed to finish our job was in the 6-day war. Do you know that? Because An-Nasir declared that he was at the gates of Tel Aviv and the world believed him and sat still," Eytan added.

When he speaks about the West Bank, "Raful" is uncompromising."Whoever thinks that Arab violence against us will stop someday is daydreaming. My wife was riding in a bus through Wadi 'Ara -- she always travels only by bus -- and their bus was stoned. This is their war, once with a stick and once with a stone, once there were fedayeen and now there are again stones. You remember Nava Elimelekh [11-year-old girl from Bat-Yam who disappeared from her home about a year ago and whose dismembered body was found some time later]? She was killed by an Arab from Gaza as an admission test to a terrorist organization. Another child has now disappeared in similar circumstances. We can do several things with the stonethrowers: To open fire and kill all the children; not to drive in the territories; or, being Jews, to behave rationally, catch them, and give them such a punishment that it will not make it worthwhile to throw stones any more. Incidentally, according to the law, parents may be punished for the actions of their children. We must create a situation which would deter them from throwing stones. However, in any event, we will always have to live with a certain level of Arab violence."

Question: Do you subscribe to the words of Moshe Dayan at the tomb of Ro'i Rothberg that we have been sentenced to live by our swords?

Answer: "It is better to have the swords in our hands than on our necks. We do not need a sword against the Arabs in the territories, a stick will do."

Does he discern signs of a civil uprising in the West Bank similar to the uprising of the pre-state Jewish population which ultimately led to the expulsion of the British? Eytan says he is glad about this question. "The British did not leave Israel because of the actions of the Hagana, the Irgun and the Lehi [former underground organizations]. These three organizations taken together merely scratched their toenails and the British could have endured this for another 100 years. They left Israel for two reasons: a) Because the Soviets launched a campaign against imperialism and the naive Americans supported it; b) Because the British were weak as a result of World War II.

Had they not been weak and had they not been pressured by the Americans, the Jewish rebellion would not have made them budge an inch. If, in addition to this, if the British would have settled the land and said that this was their holy land, we would not have made them move even one milimeter." One may infer from Eytan's remarks that if we do not weaken, do not give in to U.S. pressure and we increase settlements, no Arab civil uprising will succeed. "Incidentally," he repeats his famous utterance, "had the British staved here another 10 years there would have been another 100 settlements now in Judaea and Samaria."

Eytan heatedly argues with those he calls "the beautiful people." "If we are beautiful people, so let us please be it to the end. Why was a small Hebron established in Gush 'Ezyon in 1942? Has the Zionism we dreamed about changed since then? Had Gush 'Ezyon not fallen, would Hashomer Hatzakir [MAPAM-affiliated kibbutz movement] propose to scrape it now? The beautiful people should be consistent. If they are against the post-1967 borders, why not be against the post-1947 borders? If the former was robbery, the latter is also robbery. Some 35 years ago Moshe Sharet pledged that Yaffo would not be annexed to the Jewish state. If we truly are genuine and righteous then we should also give back Yaffo, the Galilee and Nahariyya. Where is the line from the moral point of view?" The Palestinian problem or the fear lest a binational state be established here do not bother "Raful." "We are not the ones who should solve the Palestinian problem. There are 100 million Arabs and the Saudis have a surplus of $130 billion -- let them solve this problem. Had we had 22 Jewish states, that would be another question."

Upon taking my leave from him with a finger-cracking handshake, I ask him the inevitable question: Does he intend to throw himself into the political arena? "No, no, I am going to Tel 'Adashim," he replies swiftly. However, he seems so cut and ready to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors who joined the top echelon of the ruling party that his smiling eyes when talking about Tel 'Adashim gave me the impression that he was apparently joking.

EGYPT PROMISES TO RENEW IMPORT LICENCES

TA171647 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Egypt has promised to renew the granting of licences for the importation of goods from Israel. The licences have been frozen since the beginning of the Peace for Galilee war in June 1982. This was reported today by Avraham Asheri, Commerce and Industry Ministry director general, on his return from the talks on trade and economic matters in Cairo. The purpose of the talks between the Israeli and Egyptian delegations is to renew the economic dialogue between the two countries, which actually has not existed since the war in Lebanon.

More on Trade Talks

TA181057 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Mar 83 p 3

[Report by Yitzhaq Dish]

[Text] Egypt has informed Israel that it will renew the issuance of import licences. The director general of the Commerce and Industry Ministry, Avraham Asheri, reported this to MA'ARIV yesterday on his return from Cairo, where he headed the Israeli delegation to the trade talks with Egypt.

He said that the Israeli delegation's goal in the talks was to get trade between the two countries renewed. Egyptian-Israeli commercial relations have been in a slump since June 1982.

The following agreements [sikumim] were reached in the talks between the two countries:

The head of the Egyptian delegation to the talks, deputy economy and foreign trade minister (Muhammad Wafa' as-Sa'id), promised to abolish the procedure whereby a licence for importation from Israel required special approval by the Egyptian Economy and Foreign Trade Ministry. Henceforth, the normal procedure will be followed.

The Egyptians reaffirmed the principle that the Egyptian public sector is permitted to trade with Israel. However, they said that because of the complex ties with companies in other Arab countries, development would be slow in this matter.

The Egyptian Suez Canal Bank would renew its dealings with Israeli banks.

The Egyptians raised the matter of tariff exemptions in Israel for some of their products, and it was agreed to continue the discussions on this matter at the professional level in accordance with a special code of the international tariffs organization.

SAUDI, SUDANESE BUSINESSMEN VISIT ELAT

TA171044 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Mar 83 p 1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Two businessmen, from Saudi Arabia and from Sudan, recently visited Elat for business purposes and signed agreements for purchasing cooling instruments from a well-known Elat firm. The cooling instruments will be transferred to their countries despite the fact that there are no diplomatic ties with these countries.

The Elat firm undertook to supply those instruments to the Saudi businessman for $7.5 million. Representatives from Iraq and Libya have already purchased cooling instruments from the company through a company abroad with the mediation of foreign elements.

The businessmen came into the country with British passports.

The owner of the company met recently in Switzerland with a businessman from a foreign country in order to discuss the continuation of future shipments to Saudi and Sudan.

MARCH POLL INDICATES LIKUD INCREASING LEAD

TA180758 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Mar 83 p 3

[Pori poll]

[Text] The public voting trends for March show that the gap between the Likud and the Alignment has increased slightly in favor of the Likud. The Likud is now certain to receive 7.9 percent more votes than the Alignment, compared to 6.7 percent in February. These are the findings of the national voting poll conducted by the Pori Institute in the first week of March and commissioned by HA'ARETZ.

Were elections held today, the Likud would attain 42.1 percent of the general vote, compared to 41.5 percent in the previous poll. This constitutes an increase of 0.6 percent over the previous poll and is 5 percent more than the 37.1 percent of the votes the Likud attained in the elections to the 10th Knesset.

The Alignment would today receive 34.2 percent compared to 34.8 percent in the previous poll. This constitutes a drop of 0.6 percent and is 2.4 percent less than the 36.6 of the votes which the Alignment received in the elections to the 10th Knesset.

The findings about the small parties denote a rising trend for Shinuy and a declining trend for Tami which has dropped below the minimum quota.

Some 23 percent of those polled were registered as "abstaining" with 12.6 percent of them who "do not know" who they would vote for "if elections were held today." Some 3.3 percent said that they would not vote at all and 7.1 percent refused to say who they would vote for.

Party	Poll	10th Knesset	Change
Likud	42.1	37.1	85.0
Alignment	34.2	26.6	-2.4
National Religious Party	4.4	4.9	-0.5
Agudat Yisra'el	3.5	3.7	-0.2
Shinuy	2.1	1.5	80.6
Citizens' Rights Movement	1.2	1.4	-0.2
Tehiya	1.5	2.3	-0.8
Tami	0.6	2.3	-1.7
Others	5.0	5.6	-0.6

The poll was conducted among a representative sample of 1,200 male and female voters over the age of 18 who were interviewed individually throughout the country with full privacy and discretion.

BUDGET CUTS FOLLOW ACCORD WITH COALITION PARTIES

TA171841 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Three and a quarter billion shekels are to be paid out by the treasury in an agreement reached today with the smaller coalition parties. Most of the money, about 2 billion, is to finance the project of the Tami party, the bill to help large families. The rest will be paid to rabbinical colleges, religious schools, and other institutions associated with the Agudat Yisra'el Party or the National Religious Party. Originally, the three small parties were demanding 8 billion shekels, but they settled for 3 and 1/4 billion and have dropped their threat not to vote for the budget bill next week in the Knesset. To find the money, Finance Minister Yoram Aridor intends to cut all the ministerial budgets. He does intend to print more currency.

CONSUMERS PRICE INDEX FOR FEBRUARY REPORTED

TA151555 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] The consumer price index went up by 6.1 percent in the month of February. This increase was due to price increases for almost all goods and especially fruit and vegetables, whose price went up by 17 percent. Clothes and footwear experienced a seasonal price drop of about 14 percent. Our correspondent Gid'on Zelinger says that from details given by the Central Bureau of Statistics, it transpires that the price of food and housing and the price of transportation and mail contributed to about half of the rise of the index. Health care rose an extraordinary 7 percent. Last year, the consumer price index went up by 133 percent.

The Histadrut secretary said that this increase in the index is the highest for the month of February for the last 15 years, except for 1974 which was after a war. In his opinion, this increase proves that the policy of the finance minister to keep a controlled rise of 5 percent a month does not stand the test of reality. Yeruham Meshel told our correspondent Asher Schwartz that the steep rise in the price of fruit and vegetables proves that control and supervision should be brought back into agriculture.

ARENS DISBANDING NATIONAL SECURITY UNIT

TA140531 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens is disbanding the national security unit in his ministry. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the national security unit grew primarily during Minister Sharon's tenure and was entrusted with missions it had never before handled. The actual dissolution will be done upon the return of the head of the unit, Major General Avraham Tamir, who is currently in the United States. Some of its jobs will be handed over to the General Staff Command's Planning Branch, and others to other Defense Ministry branches. The officers belonging to the national security unit will be transferred to the officers personnel administration unit for reassignment.

As for Gen Tamir's personal future, an agreement on this has already been reached in a meeting he held with minister Arens prior to his departure.

All the plans the national security unit is handling have already been frozen and the transfer of information to it will also be stopped.

Our military correspondent reports that it may very well be that the unit will be reestablished in the next few weeks in a far more limited setup, and its missions will be stipulated according to Minister Arens' views.

WEST BANK LEADERS TO SPEAK IN KIBBUTZ MEETING

TA171449 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Mar 83 p 8

[Report by Shlomith Tene]

[Text] Dignitaries from the Gaza Strip, Judaea and Samaria, among them the editor of AL FAJR, Ziyad Abu Ziyad, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, and personalities from the village leagues, will participate in two get-acquainted meetings with "the young circle for political involvement" from the Joint Kibbutz Movement which will be held on Saturday.

The group of young people from the Takam [The Joint Kibbutz Movement] holds the same as the left wing of the Labor Party.

The meetings which will be conducted under the slogan "Is there anything to talk about with the Palestinians?" will be held in Kibbutz Ma'agan Mikha'el and Or Haner.

Yo'av Margalit from Nezer Sereni, one of the heads of the group, noted that the first dialogue with the Palestinians is intended to clarify whether there is in fact anything to talk about. He expressed the hope that the Palestinian dignitaries will dare to say what is on their minds.

The young members department in the Takam confirmed the existence of the meetings, but decided to close them to the media. It seems that the attempt not to stress the existence of the meetings expresses the disagreement over the activities of the dovish young circle among the secretariat of the movement and the holders of more hawkish opinions in the Takam.

ALGERIAN, MOROCCAN, MAURITANIAN LEADERS TO MEET

GF180920 Doha QNA in Arabic 0855 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Mar (QNA) -- Citing diplomatic sources, the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN reports that the leaders of Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania will hold a summit meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 30 March to discuss the Western Sahara.

Citing the same sources, AL-WATAN says that the convening of the summit will be announced after the visit of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to Tunisia which is scheduled to begin today.

These diplomatic sources also told AL-WATAN that the Algerian president will visit Mauritania next week to brief the Mauritanian president on the results of his meetings with King Hassan II of Morocco early this month.

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B EDITORIAL ON OPEC PRICE DECISION

PM171017 Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Mar 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Oil Price Reduction: Results and Questions"]

[Text] The reduction in oil price decided by OPEC oil ministers in order to face the world market crisis has raised several questions with regard to both the correctness of the decision and its potential effects. The serious economic consequences of this decision for the member-states and the Third World countries call for reflection and consideration.

First: It must be recalled that OPEC was established in 1960 following the reduction of oil prices by the international companies which then used to dictate their rules and terms in the field of oil production and marketing.

With the passage of time these companies regretted the grave mistake of allowing the producing countries to have control of and exploit their energy resources. In contrast to this, the reduction of the oil price today is imposed on OPEC on the initiative of some of its countries that constitute the minority. As for the countries representing the majority, they demand a revision of the production level in order to preserve the price of $34 per barrel of crude oil.

Perhaps the time has not yet come to express a view on the appropriateness of the decision which was gradually imposed on OPEC member-states through threats of a price war. Observers attach great importance to this subject and are trying to find out the reasons that led to this decision on the basis of two assumptions:

The first is to know whether this reduction is the result of exploitation by the international oil companies of the existing contradictions between OPEC member-states and of these companies' directing their pressure -- brought to bear on the market since 1981 -- against the countries that are more sensitive to reductions in their exports.

As for the second assumption, it makes it possible to provide proof of whether the measures adopted in London were appropriate and whether there will be a positive change in OPEC, which, by deciding for the first time to officially organize the production of the member-states, has become the means for preserving their interests. If this is the case then it should cause satisfaction and the organization will thus distinguished by a more precise organizational development.

If Algeria refrained from taking action that would freeze the organization the organization as an expression of its refusal to reduce the oil price [as published], it is because it hopes that at the next opportunity it will be the one to win. It also hopes that the reduction of revenues will be compensated by a change in the organization's basic structure that will enable it to act in a better manner and to end tampering with the international oil market.

Failing which, it will be a serious development for the organization if the reduction in the oil price is the result of actions outside the 13 OPEC member-states with the help of some of those states.

Meanwhile, the financial consequences of the price reduction will be serious when we consider their effect on oil by-products and the fact that the London decision will reduce the revenues of the OPEC member-states by the equivalent of $37 billion.

In evaluating the effects of this reduction on North-South relations, experts have estimated the resources which the developing countries will transfer to the industrialized countries at $50 billion. To be added to this are the losses of the OPEC countries and the losses of other Third World countries such as Mexico.

The impact will be even greater if we take into consideration the fact that the reduction comes at a time when the international economic crisis is harming the developing countries in particular, for these countries will not benefit from the oil price reduction because they are not major oil consumers.

LIBYA

JALLUD HOLDS TALKS WITH USSR'S TIKHONOV

LD171615 Tripoli JANA in English 1413 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Moscow, Jumada Thani 3, Mar 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The Libyan-Soviet talks led by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud and the Soviet prime minister, Nikolay Tikhonov, started in Moscow yesterday. Also from the Libyan side, the meeting was attended by Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces: Mr 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the secretary of People's Committee Bureau for Foreign Liaison; Mr. 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of heavy industry; Mr. 'Abd al-Majid al-Qaud, energy secretary; Mr. Jum'ah al-Arbash, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Electricity; the secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau to Moscow, and a number of technical experts.

From the Soviet side, the meeting was attended by the deputy prime minister, Nikolay Viktorovitch [Talyzin], the deputy minister of defence, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, the first deputy minister for foreign trade, the head of the International Committee for Economic Affairs, the Soviet ambassador to the Jamahiriyah, and a number of Soviet technical experts. Their talks were focused on the bilateral relations and the means of strengthening the existing cooperation between the two countries in addition to other subject of their common interest. Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud and Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the armed forces, had previously held a meeting with the Soviet side headed by the prime minister, Mr Nikolay Tikhonov, and the first deputy minister of defence and chief of staff, Ogarkov.

Jabir Meets With Ustinov

LD181105 Tripoli JANA in English 0934 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Moscow, Jumada Thani 4, Mar 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, met here today with Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party and minister of defence. They both reviewed issues related to bilateral cooperation and means of promoting them.

POLICY ON 'DELUDED GROUP' ABROAD CLARIFIED

LD172119 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1938 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Mar (JANA) -- JANA expresses its regret for the deliberate distortion practiced by Western information media aimed at harming the Arab Libyan people:

REUTER attributed to the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in London a statement that Libya has decided to pursue its "exiled" citizens who are hostile to the government of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The way REUTER reported this constitutes an open distortion of the contents of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau statement. It is to be considered a deliberate violation of press integrity. In order to confirm that the contents of the statement have been distorted, JANA would like to clarify the following:

The General People's Congress has formulated a decision adopted by the people's conferences concerning the elements that have fled -- not exiled, as REUTER alleged. The text of this decision is as follows:

The Basic People's Conferences decide the following:

A. Establish a committee to call upon Libyans abroad to return to the homeland. It shall contact them, facilitate their return, and ensure that they live as other Libyans.

B. Exempt those who classify themselves as enemies of the Libyan Arab people, its revolution and achievements -- except those who repent, because the door for repentance is open for Libyans who fled abroad.

C. A time limit should be set for the committee's work, after which the committee will submit a detailed report on the outcome of its work to the Basic People's Conference. The committee is also allowed to submit its finding as it goes along.

D. Concerning the deluded group that insists on its hostile attitude towards the Libyan Arab people, its revolution and achievements, and surrenders to and deals with the people's enemies: that group must bear the consequences of its treacherous action.

E. All necessary measures will be taken to urge the various countries not to shelter and assist the deluded group that deals with the enemies of the Libyan Arab people and betray its homeland; otherwise, the Libyan Arab people will be free to do the same toward these countries through all available means. The Libyan people warn other countries against continuing assistance to this deluded group, and affirms that the Libyan people will challenge these countries in self-defense and in defense of its revolution and achievements.

While JANA explains and furnishes these facts, it denounces the signs and hints emanating from some Western information media aimed at distorting and harming the stands of the Libyan Arab people and its humanitarian principles.

While we are presenting the simple facts to stress the humanitarian values, which the thoughts of Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi epiomizes, we hope that precision and honesty will be sought, and the simple facts will be conveyed.

LEADER'S CONCERN FOR LIBYANS ABROAD AFFIRMED

LD181050 Tripoli JANA in English 0925 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 4, Mar 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The Zionist orientated paper "NEW YORK POST" has alleged that Libyan [word indistinct] in the U.S. have given warning that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi would pursue them.

This came as part of the campaign of lies led by the Reagan administration against the Libyan people to cover up for the racist measure taken by the U.S. President this week to prevent Libyan students in America from continuing their studies in the nuclear and aviation sciences.

This Zionist paper ignored the foundations of the realities in Jamahiriyah which are based on affirming human rights, absolute freedom, and genuine democracy enjoyed by Libyan citizens. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, who formulated the greatest humanitarian theory, has affirmed the individuals' absolute freedom and guaranteed their natural rights.

Libyan students in America are one of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's uppermost humanitarian concerns and he could not but struggle to the death to protect their freedom and respect their aspirations and potentialities. They are the broad sector in building a civilization, and the revolution allocates all its resources so as they are armed with science and so as they contribute to building their country.

From this standpoint, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has never ceased to stress the importance of the role of Libyan students abroad under the widest umbrella of protection and care. He has never ceased to affirm his utmost care for these students by either giving them advice, or warning them from the folly of following and being influence by the black propaganda campaigns launched by Libya's enemies, or telling them that their return to their country should be honourable to their people and country. He has never been but a loving father and sincere teacher. He never had and will have the intention of pursuing any student or harming him as the imperialist circles allege. Such black propaganda, repeated by this known Zionist American paper, are of known reasons and could not but be part of the evil propaganda against the Libyan people.

MAURITANIA

SURINAME LEADER MAKES TECHNICAL STOPOVER

AB161539 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Lieutenant Colonel Daysi Bouterse, the president of the Republic of Suriname, [as heard] yesterday evening made a 50-minute technical stopover in Nouakchott. The Suriname president is on his way back from New Delhi where he participated in the deliberations of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit.

MOROCCO

KING CALLS FOR JERUSALEM COMMITTEE MEETING

LD171338 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpt] In view of the grave situation arising from the repeated aggressions against the Al-'Aqsa Mosque and all the sacred places in Jerusalem and Hebron, his Majesty KingHassan II in his capacity as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee has called for an extraordinary meeting of the Jerusalem Committee. This came in a letter sent by Mr M'hamed Bouchetta, minister of state for foreign affairs, on the instructions of his majesty to Mr Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference organization.

BRIEFS

PROTOCOL WITH BULGARIA -- The joint Moroccan-Bulgarian committee ended its work this evening in Rabat with the signing of the protocol of the talks. For Morocco it was signed by Minister of State for Cooperation Mahjoubi Aherdane, and for Bulgaria by Minister of Communications Pando Vanchev. The two sides took several measures in the field of trade, to strengthen and diversify trade exchanges. The talks also dealt with the foundations of economic, scientific, technical, and financial cooperation to consolidate their cooperation through meetings and dialogue. It is worth mentioning that the committee has two subcommittees -- one concerning economic, scientific, financial, and technological cooperation -- the other deals with trade exchanges. [Text] [Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Mar 83 LD]

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI RETURNS FROM ROK 17 MAR

JN181100 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Mar (SUNA) -- President Numayri, his wife, and the members of his delegation returned here last night from a 4-day visit to the ROK. The president stopped over for 1 hour yesterday at Bangkok airport. He also stopped over at Abu Dhabi airport last night where he was met by Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan.

President Numayri was received on arrival by First Vice President Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib.

14-17 March Visit

For Seoul YONHAP accounts of the visit to the Republic of Korea by a Sudanese delegation led by President Numayri, including a report on a joint communique stressing the two countries' support for each other, see the South Korea section of the 18 March Asia and Pacific DAILY REPORT.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO OFFICIAL ON HASSAN-BENDJEDID TALKS

PM170915 Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Mar 83 p 3

[Jean de la Gueriviere dispatch: "The Polisario's Embarrassment"]

[Text] Tindouf (west of Algerian Sahara) [no date given] -- Cooperation among Mediterranean countries and the normalization between Algiers and Rabat which that presupposes were probably planned during the private meeting between [Moroccan] King Hassan II and [Algerian] President Bendjedid 26 February, during which the Western Sahara conflict was discussed.

What does the Polisario think of the Algerian initiatives now that the surprise effect is over? "The meeting is a good thing if it leads Morocco to have direct discussions with us." That is the unanimous comment made both by the SDAR's civilian cadres in the Tindouf region, where Algeria is sheltering Saharan refugees, and by the military with whom we visited a section of the Western Sahara where the Moroccan Kingdom does not exercise sovereignty. It is difficult to make them say more about it since they have clearly been given instructions not to say much.

Embarrassment emerged from an interview granted to us by a leadership member. Mr Mohamed Saydati, who is "secretary general to the presidency of the republic," has the rank of minister in the Saharan "government" and is regarded as an influential man within the Polisario. "Algeria informed us of the result of the meeting," Mr Saydati said first. "It told Hassan II once again that it is prepared to facilitate contacts between Morocco and the Polisario without taking the latter's place. It continues to support our right to self-determination." But, Mr Saydati said, "Hassan II made no specific proposal. He merely tried to bilateralize the conflict. He is using the meeting for propaganda purposes to hoodwink African opinion." The Polisario's analysis is that the king is "in desperate straits" owing to discontent in his Armed Forces, which are weary of pursuing the war entrenched behind the "wall." In that case was President Bendjedid's initiative wise or was it instead likely to help the king in his difficulty? "For the past 2 years," Mr Saydati replied, "Hassan II has been telling his interlocutors repreatedly that all he needed was a meeting with Mr Bendjedid to make a decisive step toward settling the conflict. The meeting has taken place. But what has resulted from it? It tested the king's insincerity, without any progress being made."

According to Mr Saydati, "It is important that the foreign leaders who worked for that meeting carry on and exert pressure on the king to have talks with us." Mr Saydati included the Saudis and the French among those leaders. However, French sources deny that Paris played a direct role. "Do you believe that?" Mr Saydati asked with obvious bitterness. In the Western Sahara affair France's attitude is "rather disappointing," our interlocutor continued. "We did not appreciate the support given to the Moroccan idea of a consultative referendum" during Mr Mitterand's visit to Rabat. Indeed it emerged from our conversations with other Polisario members that the Polisario is standing by the idea that "there is no need for a referendum because the Saharan people gave their verdict in proclaiming the republic."

Tunisia, which President Bendjedid will visit 18 March, is judged as harshly as France. Mr Saydat explained that visit by the fact that "you do not choose your neighbors." But, he added, "We must make ourselves clear: Tunisia has distinguished itself by its negative role concerning the Western Sahara; it has wholeheartedly played the Moroccan card."

Finally, Mr Saydati protested the fact that people are "trying to divide the Saharans into pro-Libyans and pro-Algerians. We note Algeria's and Libya's joint principled stances. We think that they must consult each other." Nonetheless, the disagreement between the two countries which support it most actively is placing the Polisario in a difficult situation. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's appeal to "the Tunisian leaders' will was very badly received in Algiers, where some people are expecting some new "inopportune initiative" by the Libyan number one in the next few days.

ETHIOPIA

HEAVY LOSSES SUSTAINED IN CLASh WITH GUERRILLAS

NC181050 Paris AFP in English 1034 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Khartoum, March 18 (AFP) -- Ethiopian Government troops suffered heavy casualities this week during a major clash with guerrillas of the Tigrean Peoples Liberation Front [TPLF] to the north-west of Aksum in western Tigre, the Khartoum TPLF representative said today.

The representative, Yemane Kidane, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that TPLF forces had captured four T-54 tanks and scattered two brigades of the Ethiopian 24th Division in what had proved to be the biggest battle since the Ethiopians launched their latest offensive against the Tigreans in mid-February. He said that TPLF casualities were "minimal."

Hr. Kidane appealed for aid from international relief organisations, noting that, apart from the war, the Tigrean people were victims of a serious drought which was affecting more than one million people in the east of the province. He said that the Ethiopian Army was trying to gain control of the western region, which was less affected by drought, so as to "break the morale of the people."

According to relief agencies operating from Khartoum some 3,000 Tigreans have fled to Sudan over the past three months, and the number is likely to increase unless help is forthcoming.

COPWE'S LEGESE ASFAR RECEIVES CPSU DELEGATION

EA162232 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Comrade Legese Asfar, PMAC [Provisional Military Administrative Council] Standing Committee and COPWE [Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia] Executive Committee member, today held talks with members of the visiting Soviet delegation led by Comrade Vlasov, CPSU Central Committee member and first secretary of the Checheno Ingush Autonomous Republic party committee.

The two officials exchanged views on further strengthening existing relations between Ethiopia and the Soviet Union, and on translating into deeds the agreements reached by the political parties of the two countries. The Soviet party delegation arrived in Addis Ababa earlier today on a 10-day working visit to Ethiopia.

Talks Begin

EA171642 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Comrade Dr (Alemu Abebe), Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Central Committee member and chief of the People's Organizing Department, this morning held talks with Comrade Vlasov, CPSU Central Committee member and first secretary of the party committee of the Checheno-Ingush autonomous republic.

Comrade Dr (Alemu Abebe), briefed the delegation led by Comrade Vlasov on the victories won by the Ethiopian broad masses in the past years of struggle and victory in the political, economic, and social fields and on current activities in the field of struggle.

Comrade Vlasov was also briefed on the establishment of Addis Ababa and the structure and work of the urban dwellers' associations at the Addis Ababa Collective Urban Dwellers Association hall. The briefing was given to Comrade Vlasov by Comrade (Abebe Engeda Sew), member of the Addis Ababa Collective Urban Dwellers' Association Executive Committee.

Official Visits Foreign Office

EA172145 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Comrade Vlasov, CPSU Central Committee member and first secretary of the party committee of the Checheno-Ingush autonomous republic, exchanged views on struggle experiences with the comrades of COPWE's Foreign Department at the COPWE Central Committee office this afternoon. Comrade Habte Mariam Seyum, deputy chief of COPWE's Foreign Department, took the opportunity to brief Comrade Vlasov on foreign affairs matters.

KENYA

MOI CHAIRS OAU COMMITTEE; SUMMIT SCHEDULED

EA101319 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 10 Mar 83

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi sounded the caution this morning when he chaired the OAU Committee of Twelve in New Delhi this morning. The committee resolved that the OAU summit would be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on between [as heard] 6th and 11th June. The president noted with satisfaction that all members of the Committee of Twelve gave positive reports about the summit and it is expected that it will be a big success.

MOI SPEECH ON RETURN FROM INDIA, PAKISTAN

LD171358 Nairobi Domestic Service in Swahili 1528 GMT 13 Mar 83

[President Moi's speech at Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi, on his return from Pakistan -- live]

[Excerpts] Yesterday we went to Pakistan, where we were well received and had fruitful consultations with the Pakistan Government. I can say that our relations with Pakistan are very good, and the Pakistanis are people we can rely on. Even in India I had talks with the Indian prime minister. Although we are members of the nonaligned countries and there was a great deal of talk about many other things, charity must begin at home and we must help each other first. And that was why I talked to the Indian prime minister about the difficulties of students, some of whom are doing well. We will help those who are in difficulties because the government must take care of its subjects wherever they are in the world.

In Pakistan we signed three agreements: one is economic and technological, the second is on trade, and the third on culture. In matters of trade the government of Pakistan said that it is able to give us credits worth 70 million rupees for trade. We still have to talk about how to use this money. [applause]

We also agreed with the government of that country: The president gave me 20 scholarships for the young people of Kenya so that they may study in Pakistan. As you know, Pakistan has universities of significance. For this reason the young people will be studying science, and they will be maintained by the Pakistan Government. Twenty other places are available for students who can maintain themselves. That is 40 in all. We also obtained places for five doctors and nurses to study how to treat the disabled there.

We have also agreed that they will send industrial experts to help us. Also, if there are areas where we, the Governments of Kenya and Pakistan, can cooperate then we will.

In agriculture we will also benefit because they will be sending agricultural experts. They cultivate wheat and rice, have succeeded in being self-sufficient in food and they sell about 1.5 million tons of rice abroad.

They also gave 20 scholarships for teachers to study in Pakistani teacher training colleges, because we are expanding our secondary schools and other schools. We must therefore have young people who study these matters.

Let us love our country. What is happening in the city of Nairobi is not pleasant. [applause] If I am told that 17,000 people have been registered to work in Nairobi [for the city council], then I say to myself: Let me place 1,000 of these people on Uhuru Highway -- is this a small number? -- as 1,000 people on Kenyatta Avenue, Moi Avenue; 1,000 Jogoo Road; 1,000 Forest Road; 1,000 Mathare; now that is 7,000 people [as heard]. Now what about the other 10,000? Then you ask yourself: How is this? There is a breakdown in the water supply over there and breakdowns elsewhere. There are even illiterate people among these 17,000. You here, how many are you. I want to ask you? Here, you are now more than 1,500. You who are here cannot be more than 1,500. Now what about those 17,000? Maybe a thief collects a salary by selling his picture and at the end of the month he joins the [wages] line there. Even God himself cannot bless people like these.

Speech Opening National Assembly

EA160026 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1220 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Speech by Daniel arap Moi, president of Kenya, opening a session of the National Assembly on 15 March 1983 -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Mr Speaker, the institution of our Parliament has now become both sophisticated and systematic in nature. But there is always scope in public affairs for continuous constructive analyses and reassessments. Today, therefore, I shall be making some factual statements with inevitable reference to the forthcoming legislation.

Above all let me emphasize that this Parliament is a place of serious national business and not a forum for outpourings of individual emotions. The enormous responsibility borne by this House could never be satisfactorily discharged if honorable members place concern for personal and individual development above their duty and responsibility in the cause of national unity and progress.

The House, and indeed the nation, must clearly understand that while there have been many factors contributing to a decline in government revenue, demand for government expenditure has been increasing in every direction. So, in order to balance our books, we are left with no viable option except to restrain the growth of public expenditure. Accordingly, we are examiing various cost sharing arrangements applicable to those who can afford to pay something towards education and other public services. And where people cannot pay in cash then public outlay on constructional projects might be reduced through the local contribution of time and labor.

Let me emphasize again in this whole context that the ministries are simply the instruments for spending public funds that are scrutinized and approved by Parliament. We are all in this together and it is in everybody's vital interest that by whatever means available money is stretched as far as it will go. In the meantime, the government has taken the lead in effecting specific curtailment of public expenditure, side by side with reinforced revenue collection measures.

The honorable members, and indeed the whole country, will no doubt share my feelings of dissatisfaction with the performance in recent times by many of our local authorities. There have been some people within those institutions who have tended to use influence and official position for personal gain. [applause]

There have been in particular, elected and nominated councillors who cannot leave officers and technical staff free to do their work in an objective manner, but instead they interfere with every activity in blatant pursuit of personal advantage. Overall, we have witnessed instances of chaotic inefficiency, resulting in total breakdown of important services, only to be followed by the issuance of some absurd excuses. In the midst of this sad state of affairs the basic services of water, public hygiene, and road maintenance have been left largely unattended.

Mr Speaker, I will now briefly touch upon some of the measures my government will propose and some of the things we are already doing to broaden economic prospects. To effect saving and instill greater efficiency and change the climate of thought underlying mobilization and use of all expertise in the search for oil thus we shall propose amendments to the relevant laws making it more readily possible to accord recognized incentives to all prospecting companies.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion I would like to state that the effectiveness of this new session will depend on the (?worth) of professional contribution made by every honorable member. I wish to state further that in regard to the whole range of themes and factors I have touched upon, our country is moving through a phase of serious economic and financial difficulties. Stability and progress can be secured but it will demand from this constitutional structure tolerance rather than emotions, composure more than excitement, and resolve to subdue problems. Most critically perhaps let there be understanding that all of us share the same commitment to truth, economic advancement, and social [word indistinct]. It follows therefore that our task can be pursued honorably and successfully only upon the unshakable foundation of peace, love, and unity. Thank you.

UGANDA

SECURITY FORCES CLASH WITH REBELS, KILL SIX

EA172259 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Reports from Kampala say that Ugandan security forces killed 6 antigovernment rebels in a bush hideout some 30 miles north of the capital this week. According to [TAIFA MPYA) newspaper of Kampala, the rebels were killed by government troops ratrolling the area as the rebels were crossing a river. Among those killed was a man believed to be the rebel commander, but 600 of the insurgents reportedly escaped into the bush.

Earlier this week Uganda's Vice-President Paulo Muwanga said some rebels were trapped in the same region. It is believed that those who managed to escape from the security forces will be tracked down soon.

IVORY COAST, TOGO, UPPER VOLTAN ENVOYS ON BORDER

AB161853 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] The ambassadors of Ivory Coast, Togo, and the Upper Volta have commented on Ghana's decision to reopen her borders with their countries. They expressed the hope that Ghana would reopen all her entry points with their various countries to facilitate what they called free movement of their peoples.

In an interview with a Ghana Broadcasting Corporation correspondent in Accra today, the Ivory Coast ambassador in Ghana, Mr Konan Nda, said when Ghana first decided to open her border point at Gonokrom with the Ivory Coast for 2 days a week, his country indicated that they do not accept partial opening and would open its borders only if Ghana opened all her entry points with the Ivory Coast. Mr Nda said the latest decision by Ghana to reopen the border has been communicated to his government and he was awaiting his government's decision on it.

On his part, the Togolese ambassador, Mr Nampouguini Lare, would not comment on reports about the refusal of the Togolese to allow travelers in Togo through Aflao. He however said he was awaiting reports from his country on Ghana's decision. Mr Lare pointed out that Ghana's decision to open its border at one point did not mean much since that would mean that people in northern Togo who want to see relatives in northern Ghana will have to travel down to Aflao, go up northern Ghana and vice versa, whereas the border point at the north would have served this purpose.

The councellor at the Upper Volta Embassy, Mr Germain Nasa, said his country's border point at Paga is open 2 days a week to travelers since Ghana reopened hers. He also said he is waiting for his government's decision on the latest development.

GHANA

PNDC ASKED TO STOP ILLEGAL ACTS OF SOLDIERS

AB162036 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] An urgent appeal has been made to the government to curb the activities of certain members of the armed forces who have turned themselves into private debt collectors and are harrassing innocent civilians. Speaking to newsmen in Accra today, the national coordinator of the Ghana Muslims' Representative Council, Alhaji Mohamed Elhassan, noted that in spite of the law passed by the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] against such practices, many Ghanaians are using soldiers to collect their debts for them. In most cases, the victims are subjected to severe beating which do not speak well of the ongoing revolution. Alhaji Mohamed said the PNDC is a people's government and therefore any acts by soldiers likely to spoil the image of the council should be nipped in the bud. The government should accordingly take steps to enforce the law banning the use of soldiers in collecting debts for private individuals.

ACCRA COMMENTS ON CONDITIONS FOR FAIR TRIAL

AB161356 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The trial has opened in Accra of 24 persons charged with offenses in connection with last November's abortive coup attempt. Certain aspects of the trial cannot escape comment.

The first is the assurance by the president of the five-member board that the overriding aim is to arrive at the truth. This is a most laudable sentiment in the trial of people accused of the worst of crimes -- that of treason. In this connection, one may note that the fact that the trial is taking place at all is evidence of the commitment of the government to the rule of law even as the country pursues a revolutionary path. One may, at this stage, observe that it was rather odd for one of the accused to ask for guarantees of the safety of the accused until the end of the trial, considering the fact that the accused have not been molested while in custody these past 4 months. And in the light of the assurance given by Captain Kodjo Tsikata in his television interview at the weekend that no prisoner has been subjected to torture during the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] rule, it should be clear that there is no grounds to worry about the safety of the accused. In any case, the fact that they have not been physically molested while in prison has been attested to by those who saw them at the tribunal yesterday.

Another matter worthy of note is the request by the president of the tribunal to the state to provide counsel for the accused. This is, no doubt, in the best tradition of such trials in Ghana and elsewhere, that is, wherever the rule of law prevails. And if any further evidence is required of government's determination to ensure a fair trial, then this is it: It has been observed that the trial has been adjourned for 10 days to allow time for the accused to be provided with counsel at the expense of the state; but there was another purpose to the adjournment: It should enable the reports of the start of the trial to reach the 12 other accused persons now at large so that they can submit themselves to justice if they wish, or failing this, to be tried in absentia.

Another thing worth noting is that the five-member tribunal is composed of people from all parts of the country. This must have been a conscious attempt on the part of the Board of Public Tribunals to meet the well-known requirement that justice must not only be done, but also it must be manifestly seen to have been done.

Finally, one would, however, wished that more members of the Bar Association would have hastened into direct relationship with the accused to defend them; of course, bearing in mind the ability of the accused to pay the lawyers fees. This would have ensured a more spontaneous relationship than the situation where it has been left to the state to find counsel for them.

LIBERIA

DOE ORDERS REOPENING OF BORDER WITH SIERRA LEONE

AB171850 Monrovia Radio EWLA in English 1605 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Speech by Liberian President Samuel K. Doe upon his return on 17 March to Monrovia from New Delhi, Kuwait, Togo, and Ivory Coast -- live]

[Text] Mr Vice Head of State and Cochairman of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], Mr Speaker and Secretary General of the PRC, members of the council, Mr Minister of State and Chairman of the Cabinet, Members of the Cabinet, Mr Chief Justice and members of the Supreme Court, Mr Chairman and members of the Special Military Tribunal, Mr Chief of Staff and members of the Armed Forces of Liberia, Doyen, members of the diplomatic corps, members of the clergy, fellow citizens:

We are indeed happy to be back home after a very rewarding experience abroad where we participated in the seventh conference of heads of state and government of the Non-aligned Movement held in New Delhi, India, from 7 to 12 March 1983.

The conference brought together a record gathering of world leaders including kings, presidents, chairmen, prime ministers, and crown princes and chief of martial law administrators. It thus afforded us the real opportunity of personally conferring with about 35 heads of state and government on bilateral matters between Liberia and their respective countries.

My fellow citizens, in these times when our world is beset by wars and threats of wars, when economic and financial difficulties affect the international economies and bring such developing countries as Liberia to the brink of collapse, the value of our participation in the historic summit comprising 101 nations out of the total UN membership of 150 is beyond measure. For 6 consecutive days, the summit intensively debated in every possible language and tongue the questions of war and peace, disarmament, as well as economic development and human survival on this planet. Our discussions are of vital relevance to us as a nation and as a people.

The nonaligned countries movement was established over 21 years ago by the newly emerging developing nations. It emerged out of the common desire to exercise independent judgment in international affairs without taking sides in the cold war and bloc politics of the two superpowers. The shared experience in the struggle against colonialism, racism, exploitation, and domination (?proved) rather imperative for the unity and cohesion of the movement. Obviously, a movement of such diversity in membership can be expected to go through stages of growth with the attendant growing pains. These transitional aberrations were taken by many as signs of weaknesses and portents of disintegration of the movement.

I wish to note with satisfaction and pride the efforts that the nonaligned countries movement has emerged out of the New Delhi summit with its unity strengthened and its original principle revived. The summit leaders made a determined effort to set aside these diversive issues and to concentrate on those larger questions confronting the movement and the developing world as a whole. Accordingly, the summit called on the superpowers to undertake a concerted effort towards disarmament. The summit also urged the developing countries to demonstrate the necessary way for the launching of the global negotiations and establishment of the new international economic order. Among other things, the final declaration called for instituting immediate measures to help developing countries overcome their present economic difficulties. The convening of an international conference devoted to money and finance has been proposed to discuss the problems of debt and present international monetary and financial systems. Indeed, the sober and concrete decisions taken in New Delhi have served to reaffirm the commitments of member states of the original principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement in the struggle for peace, disarmament, development, independence, and survival. We are confident that with her foresight and dynamism, the new chairman of the movement and the prime minister of India, Mrs Indira Ghandi, the nonaligned countries movement will continue to serve as a positive force in world affairs. For us in Liberia, we believe there can be no alternative to the policy of nonalignment and my government pledges its fullest support and cooperation to her chairmanship. [applause]

During the summit, we concurrently held very useful bilateral discussions with the kings of Jordan, Nepal, the presidents of Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Benin, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Niger, and Pakistan, the chairman of the PLO, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, and the chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia. [applause] We also exchanged views with the presidents of Lebanon, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and the leader of SWAPO. During our stay in New Delhi, we had the very pleasant experience of meeting and holding discussions with the outgoing chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, President Fidel Castro of Cuba. Additionally, we held consultations with foreign officials in their capacity as heads of their respective delegations: the vice president of Sudan, the prime minister of Jamaica, the prime minister of Tunisia, and the deputy prime minister of Singapore, the crown prince and foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, the vice president and foreign minister of Chad, the foreign ministers of Gambia, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Rwanda, and the leaders of the delegations of Ghana and Upper Volta.

In spite of her very busy schedule of presiding over the proceedings of the conference and entertaining over 100 heads of delegations, Prime Minister Mrs Indira Ghandi received us in audience for discussions on matters of mutual concern and interest to our two countries and peoples. Mrs Ghandi affirmed her government's willingness to cooperate with Liberia in various areas of development, particularly science, medicine, rural development, and commerce. [applause] We use this occasion to express our deep appreciation to Mrs Ghandi, the government and people of India for their hospitality accorded us during our attendance at the nonaligned summit. My fellow citizens, India -- with about 700 million people -- is the second most populous nation in the world. It has served as the chairman of nonaligned and as a modernating force, helping to keep the locomotive of the movement on its wheels. In its assumption of the chairmanship of the movement, India will continue to play an increasingly leading role in world affairs as spokesman of the developing world. However, we have here in Liberia a large Indian community which plays a significant and constructive part in the economic life of the nation. Also bilateral cooperation between the two countries, especially in the area of trade, has been assuming increasingly wider dimensions. In consideration of the foregoing and in view of the tremendous potential for mutual benefits to be derived from strengthening relations between our two countries, we have indicated to the Government of India our desire to establish a resident diplomatic mission in New Delhi in the not too distant future. [applause]

Our discussion with President Mohamed Ziaul Haq of Pakistan was most encouraging and centered on matters of political, economic cooperation between our two countries. Upon our request, President Ziaul has agreed to send a technical team to Liberia to explore areas of possible cooperation in the field of agriculture, small industries, as well as other areas to be determined by the Liberian Government.

In our meeting with the president of Argentina, Lieutenant General Bignone, the Argentine leader underscored the importance which developing countries attach to the forthcoming ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 to be held in Argentina from 25 March to 9 April 1983 and extended an invitation to Liberia to attend. We agreed, for the meeting is being convened at a critical junction in international economic relations especially between the North and South. It is imperative, therefore, that the Group of 77 developing countries derive a common position and present a united front for North-South negotiations. Accordingly Liberia will be represented at this conference. On other matters, the Government of Argentina will send a technical delegation to Liberia to study possible areas of cooperation between the two countries, especially in agriculture and trade. Also Argentina has agreed to provide training for Liberian football players in Argentina annually [applause] for a period of 10 years. [applause] In this connection, that government has extended an invitation to the Liberian minister of sports to visit the country in order to finalize the arrangements with Argentine sports authorities. [applause]

I am pleased to inform you, fellow citizens, that en route to New Delhi we made a stopover in Khartoum, in Sudan, where we paid a working visit with our brother and colleague President Ja'far Numayri from 5 to 6 March 1983. We held comprehensive and constructive talks on matters of bilateral, continental, and international concern to our two countries. A press communique was issued at the conclusion of the visit in which we agreed to work towards the speedy implementation of the existing agreement between our two governments and to reactivate the necessary followup in this respect. We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to President Numayri, the government and people of Sudan for the very cordial and dignified reception accorded us, especially at short notice.

From Khartoum we made a brief technical stop at Ash-Shariqah in the United Arab Emirates for refueling before proceeding to India. On our return from New Delhi, we again made a brief technical stop at Ash-Shariqah where we were met by his royal highness the governor.

We held very useful and informative discussions with him on matters of mutual concern. Thereafter we proceeded to Jidda in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for a private visit from 13 to 15 March.

We later departed for Kuwait where we paid an official working visit from 15 to 16 March. In Kuwait, we were accorded an elaborate welcome, a reception characterized by full military honors at the airport and we were met upon arrival by his highness the amir, the prime minister, and the minister of state for Cabinet. After a lunch at the (Azame) Palace where we resided, we toured the Kuwait region and we were later entertained at a banquet by the king. The visit to Kuwait marked the first opportunity afforded us to pay an official visit to a Gulf state. For this, we are extremely grateful to the king and people of the amirates. During that visit, we used the occasion to discuss bilateral cooperation and the need to further strengthen the ties between Liberia and Kuwait. As a result of our initiatives in Kuwait, that government has invited a high-powered delegation headed by the foreign minister to conclude a concrete arrangement on bilateral cooperation between Liberia and that country. The delegation will leave next Tuesday to finalize negotiations on promoting exchange between our two countries.

Having made a satisfactory and rewarding official visit to that state, we arrived in the city of Lome, Republic of Togo, in the early evening of yesterday. Despite the rather short notice of our stopover, we were accorded a most enthusiastic and dignified welcome from my friend and brother His Excellency President Gnassingbe Eyadema and the friendly people of his great nation. True to African tradition, the reception was grand indeed.

We took leave of President Eyadema this morning and traveled to Abidjan, the Republic of Ivory Coast, where we were warmly received by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. We briefed him on the events surrounding the closure of our borders with Sierra Leone and welcomed his comments. We also exchanged views on matters of mutual concern to our two countries and peoples.

My fellow citizens, the closure of the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone has been a matter of concern to many world leaders and African leaders in particular thus, during the nonaligned summit in New Delhi, we were approached by several leaders -- statesmen of Africa -- including the following who felt it was their duty to consult with us in order that the issue may be resolved in a brotherly African fashion: President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya and the current chairman of the OAU, President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, President Milton Obote of Uganda, President Mathieu Kerekou of Benin, and President Seyni Kountche of Niger.

I should like to clearly restate here that contrary to what has been reported in the press, our action in the border closure has absolutely nothing to do with the ambitions of territory aggrandizement. Indeed, I recall that as a charter member of the OAU, Liberia has championed and consistently supported that principle of the charter which expresses that member states must respect those borders inherited at the time of independence. Moreover, our action was in no way directed against the friendly and brotherly people of Sierra Leone. We cannot forget the spontaneous, emotional, and ethusiastic welcome which the people of Sierra Leone have always reserved for us each time we visit Freetown. Moreover, since the People's Redemption Council [PRC] government came to power, we have maintained that we would never allow the use of Liberian soil as a springboard for subversive activity against any of our neighboing states. Our government has therefore often been the first to react to any signs of activities within our territory that could be perceived as intended to cause destabilization within a neighboring state.

Many times our quick and firm action in this regard had been taken at the risk of incurring the wrath of our own free press here as well as our citizens, who are defenders of our national, traditional, [words indistinct] civil rights, civil liberty, and individual freedom. Notwithstanding, we have felt that the risk is worth taking in order to prevent destabilization of a friendly state and preserve peace, stability within our region.

We have expected that in matters affecting us, our neighbors would handle the situation in the same manner. We were therefore dismayed at the apparent indication and indifference of the Sierra Leone Government when we received an information of the publication in the so-called PROGRESSIVE newspaper. The manner in which the paper was distributed abroad gave us the reason to believe that the article may not have been the work of mere irresponsible journalists. We got the impression that this might have been a deliberate campaign to tarnish our image and destabilize our government. We called the government's attention to the gravity of this matter but we did not receive any deserving reaction. Against this background, we felt compelled to close our border with that country and dispatch troops to enforce this position while we awaited a satisfactory response from the Sierra Leone Government in the matter. However, my fellow citizens, in view of our consultations with African leaders in New Delhi and in keeping with the spirit of the Nonaligned Movement, the Charter of the OAU, and the Mano River Union declaration, we have felt the need to reconsider the border closure. [applause]. We have accordingly directed the minister of national defense effective immediately [applause] to allow the normal flow of traffic and the movement of people by land, air, and sea. [applause]

We should like at this time to express our thanks and appreciation to our brother, His Excellency President Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, for the very effective role he played in helping to resolve the issue and preserve the Mano River Union. [applause] His was a noble and humble gesture which is indeed commendable.

My fellow citizens, our national existence today is challenged by many problems whose solutions require renewed patriotism, a sense of self-denial, and recognizing by each of us our obligations in the nation-building process first and foremost through our own sweat. We must at this time commend the spirit of patriotism, dedication, self-sacrifice with which the vast majority of our people have withstood these challenges so far. We must indeed express deep appreciation to the cochairman and members of the council, the chairman and members of the Cabinet, the men and women in arms, and all of our people for the peace and stability that have obtained at home during our absence. [applause]

Nevertheless, we must express our great concern at the continuing attempt and insistence of a few persons, including some officials who hold high positions of trust, to divide this society and disrupt our institutions. We are not convinced that such attempts, especially on the part of high officials of government, whether through neglect of duty or failure of intelligence, are not designed to retard to the progress of the nation and discredit our humble efforts for their own selfish motives. From the reports reaching us during our stay abroad, the entire country has been experiencing critical power shortages affecting vital health delivery services, businesses, and the over-all well-being of our people. My understanding is that the energy situation remains very serious and requires creativity, imagination, and initiative in crisis management both in its immediate and long-term resolution. I shall therefore personally investigate the root causes of this prolonged problem and effect changes where necessary. [applause]

In view of the urgent nature of the problem, we have raised the matter with the emir of Kuwait for emergency relief of the situation while we endeavor to find a permanent solution. [applause]

In this connection, the emir has requested that we send a delegation back to Kuwait early next week to conclude the arrangements. A high-power delegation headed by the foreign minister will therefore be returning to Kuwait on Tuesday of next week in the pursuit of this matter. [applause]

My fellow citizens, we are indeed grateful to God for his guidance during our journey abroad.

We also use this occasion to commend Captain Weefu and Copilot Benson and the engineers and other members of the crew for their safe conduct of the flight. [applause] As usual, our staff was most efficient and dedicated as also were the press, security, and other members of the delegation. We note with satisfaction that the contributions of [name indistinct] brothers' corporation, (Sadji) brothers and the general manager of [words indistinct] in Monrovia for the success of our visit to India. [applause]

My fellow citizens, today the unity and solidarity of our people is more imperative than ever. Thus, as we strive to improve the national well-being, I again appeal to ministers, directors general, and managing directors to take a greater interest in their duties and to recommit themselves to the national cause. [applause]

Let us remember that the success of this government and the advancement of our nation should be to the glory of us all and the benefit of posterity. In this regard, ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to please rise and raise your glasses and drink with me to the health, to the well-being of the government,to the well-being of the people of Liberia and until the solution of our crude oil is found, the struggle continues. [applause]

SENEGAL

SOVIETS DONATE EQUIPMENT TO DAKAR CITY COUNCIL

AB151126 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] The Soviet delegation from Baku that arrived in Dakar last Saturday will continue its stay in Senegal until 17 March. As you know, relations have existed between the Soviet town of Baku and Dakar for 15 years, but with this visit of the Soviet delegation to Dakar, a new era has dawned in their intercommunal cooperation.

Yesterday morning, the two delegations held a working session at the Dakar City Hall. During this meeting, the two parties exchanged views on all the problems concerning the smooth running of their cooperation which is already an exemplary one. They also reviewed the 15 years of their relationship and (?agreed) to work for its continuation.

In the afternoon, the Soviet delegation offered a quantity of (?equipment) to the Dakar municipality. The donation ceremony took place at the accounts department of the municipality. The equipment includes preschool teaching materials and medical supplies, cinematographic and sports materials.

Tomorrow, the delegation will visit training institutions, municipal projects, and industrial installations.

UPPER VOLTA

FRENCH RADIO INTERVIEWS OUEDRAOGO, PART TWO

AB161012 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Part two of "exclusive" interview with Upper Voltan President Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo by Edith Coran of Radio Frence International in Ouagadougou; date of interview not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Recently during the meeting with Upper Voltan businessmen and employers, you guaranteed free enterprise in Upper Volta. Don't you think this is somewhat contradictory to the alleged desire to set up an Upper Voltan Jamahiriyah?

[Answer] Absolutely not. This is one of the reasons why there should be no talk about any Upper Voltan jamahirivah. Free enterprise in Upper Volta is a reality because whether we like it or not, the public sector cannot absorb all the available manpower; it cannot absorb the cadres. And I think this free enterprise is a reality in the subregions, and not only in the subregions but in all the regions. We cannot go it alone at this level. Whether we like it or not, free enterprise must be encouraged in Upper Volta because it is through this means that we can reduce unemployment and revamp the economy of our country. Any other system will demand much more reflecion, analysis, and study, and especially a solid regime that can reach it. This is not our case. We have stated our plan. We have said that in 2 years, we will allow the people to choose their leaders and regime. It is not for us to impose one on them.

[Question] Mr President, it already appears that within the People's Salvation Council, CSP, there are different schools of thought; there are people who share your view of promoting free enterprise and others that do not share your view of promoting free enterprise and others that do not share this view. There are those who would prefer a policy of nationalization of the most important enterprises. Don't you think that could create problems?

[Answer] Yes, a state control policy would certainly benefit a large part of the population if we had the means, for it is the means that dictate the policy. To talk about nationalization now, I think, is an aberration. We have never talked about it and we are not talking about it. I think we have our feet firmly on the ground anyway. One cannot preach a policy for which the means is completely lacking. We are realistic. We have on several occasions hinted that free enterprise will be encouraged and I think I said this in my 10 December speech. Therefore, I am not at all going back on this; I am only reaffirming a condition. I think we all agree that if there are some small factions, they are quite normal. The essential thing is that there is a majority and the minority must accept what the majority decides.

[Question] The CSP has just ended a nationwide information tour. Could you tell us the most important points that you got from this tour?

[Answer] This information tour taught us a lot of things. We initially intended to use this tour to give the reasons for the coup d'etat and to highlight the major orientations that the CSP wishes to pursue for the next 2 years. But as the tour progressed, it was rather we who learned from the people. Thus the major points learned were that the people are entirely prepared to work and they give us their approval and support. But then they warned as against the errors of the past 20 years of independence, because the people have for a long time been deceived and have suffered from the hesitations of the numerous regimes and leaders that preceded us. We were happy to note that the people -- no matter what is being said -- are interested in politics and they gave us some advice which was of benefit to us. I should also say that the people expressed the fear of seeing the former politicians come back to the political scene. This has always been our constant preoccupation also. Now, a solution must be found to this in order to please everyone. This is a very important point that we noted. Another one is that the people taught us a lot about their way of organizing their village groups. They are organizing themselves at all levels but they need to be encouraged and we will do everything to encourage them. This means that the rural populations are not interested in the fruitless squabbles and polemics over ideological orientations in which the intellectuals in the cities are engaged. They are only concerned about the economic development of their regions, and I think this is the important thing. As far as we are concerned, we are simply going to listen to the voice of the people. We are not going to minimize the petty ideological quarrels [word indistinct] but I think that it is very important to listen to the voice of the people and help them solve their daily problems -- to have enough to eat, to clothe themselves, to educate their children, and have good drinking water. And I think this is the lesson we learned during the information tour.

[Question] Upper Volta was affected by the exodus of refugees from Nigeria; it was affected perhaps in a lesser degree than other countries but it was still affected. How many have been affected?

[Answer] Until now, Upper Volta has registered 5,000 persons expelled from Nigeria. This is the official figure. In fact, there are more. Some of the deportees returned directly to their homes and it was not possible to register them. But as you have said, we were affected in a lesser degree than Niger or Benin. However, as a matter of principle, Upper Volta has protested strongly against such measures which somewhat compromise relations of good neighborliness and are contrary to the ECOWAS treaty of free movement of persons and goods. We protested as a matter of principles while recognizing Nigeria's sovereign decision.

[Question] What measures have been taken to help these refugees?

[Answer] In this connection, I think the main measure was taken by the Entente Council at Kara. This was a happy initiative because, although there was a lot of mobilization at the international level, it was necessary that the countries concerned should be the first to react. I think the Kara decision was very important for us. Internally, in addition to organizing the transportation and reception of the deportees, we are now making preparations for the social reintegration of some of them. This will take more time because we have some material problems but I think that the ministries of social affairs and interior are seeing to this. We are watching their efforts and we will do everything to ensure this social reintegration.

[Question] Some Ghanaian refugees passed through Upper Volta and it is even said that some of them may settle in the country. You will meet with the Ghanaian interior minister tomorrow. Will you discuss this problem with him?

[Answer] As a matter of fact it is the interior minister who will meet with his Ghanaian counterpart and this problem will certainly be discussed. This is because long before these expulsions from Nigeria, little problems already existed with Ghanaians crossing the border and many minor incidents occurred on many occasions. I think the problem has worsened with the expulsions. Our first step was to canalize the flow of Ghanaians passing through our country in order to keep them from becoming established here. Later, however, some of them came back as political refugees and it is necessary to find ways and means of reassuring them.

OUAGADOUGOU REPORTS ACCORD WITH DPRK 16 MARCH

AB162031 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] The prime minister of North Korea and Upper Voltan Prime Minister Captain Thomas Sankara have signed a cooperation agreement in the scientific, economic, technical, and cultural fields. This agreement was concluded in Pyongyang at the end of 4 days of talks between the Upper Voltan delegation and the North Korean authorities.

MOZAMBIQUE

MNR ANNOUNCES SIX-MAN CABINET FORMED THIS MONTH

MB181020 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0615 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Report by radio correspondent Ken Pittinger]

[Text] Senor Evo Fernandes of the Mozambique National Resistance has said a six-man cabinet of which he is part was formed during a special meeting earlier this month in a city he declined to name, but which other sources say was Frankfurt. The spokesman said the fall of the Mozambique Government is imminent, probably even as early as July this year.

The Frankfurt meeting reaffirmed Afonso Dhlakama as commander in chief of the guerrillas and leader of the national resistance movement. Other officials named were Orlando Cristina as secretary general, and Washington-based Artur Vilanculos as head of foreign relations. Evo Fernandes himself takes the planning post. Senor Vilanculos, who was in Lisbon this week, said the resistance was extending its representation to other major European cities and stepping up its political preparation for power.

Reports from Maputo published here say that contrary to guerrilla claims government forces have been making inroads into rebel strongholds and have inflicted heavy losses in recent battles with the guerrillas in the north of the country. Meanwhile, intelligence sources in Lisbon say there are signs that the Machel government is undergoing internal pressure and may well be ousted soon by hardline dissidents. If that happens, intensification of the antiguerrilla war could be expected involving the use of more foreign advisers, including possibly Cuban forces. It is known that Pretoria, which assists the resistance guerrillas, encouraged the movement's leaders at a meeting this month in the South African capital to step up their political credibility so as to provide a viable alternative government once the full effects of the guerrilla war made themselves felt on the Machel regime.

Meanwhile, in Lisbon a big communist-led campaign is underway to discredit groups based here opposing the regimes in the former Portuguese African territories. The communist morning O DIARIO accused organizations like the national resistance movement and the Angolan rebels UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] and FNLA [Angolan National Liberation Front], of conspiring against legitimate governments with the help of the South African Embassy in Lisbon and the protection of the Portuguese Government. The campaign comes on the eve of an international conference of solidarity with the African frontline states due to be held here next week. The conference has been labeled a Soviet propaganda campaign by the socialist leader, Dr Mario Soares.

[Johannesburg Domestic Service in English at 0900 GMT on 18 March reported: "The Mozambique national resistance movement has announced that it has set up a government in exile. A spokesman for the movement said a six-member cabinet was set up at a meeting in Europe attended by Mozambican exiles from France, West Germany, United States, Italy, and Portugal. More meetings will be held from time to time."]

SOUTH AFRICA

REPORTAGE ON REACTIONS TO NEWSWEEK ARTICLE

MB171924 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 17 Mar 83

Foreign Minister Comments

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, has commented in Cape Town on the cover story in the latest issue of the American news magazine NEWSWEEK concerning the alleged suppression of Blacks in South Africa.

This piece of journalism, said Mr Botha, was an example of what the West meant by freedom of speech -- namely the right to lie, deceive and distort. It was now quite clear that the government had a very difficult task simply in declaring the truth about South Africa. The government was an advocate of freedom of speech, and it would be interesting to see how the South African media would react to the untruths and distortions of NEWSWEEK. The article, he said, furthermore displayed a vindictiveness and intense hatred thus far seldom encountered in any publication in the West.

The official opposition spokesman on the media, Mr Dave Dalling, said that, all-in-all, from the average South African's point of view, the article was a negative and hurtful piece of writing that damaged the image of South Africa abroad. However, from the point of view of those who were not white, the real problem possibly was that the article had a ring of truth. Nevertheless, there were a number of inaccuracies, such as the statement that the government was not building new houses, that racially mixed couples could live together provided there were no complaints from their white neighbors, and that Mr Japie Basson was, as it was put, an aide of the prime minister. As far as he knew, this latter contention was not true.

The NEWSWEEK article was described by a Conservative Party spokesman, Mr Jan Hoorn, as another attempt to destroy South Africa's image. His party, he said, strongly denounced what he called this vilification of South Africa. He regarded the article as an attack on the policy of separate development in particular.

The New Republic Party spokesman on foreign affairs, Mr Bran Page, said the report was another example of how partial truths and complete falsehoods could be diabolically interwoven to create a distorted picture of South Africa.

Ambassador Fourie Protests

MB171643 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The South African ambassador in the United States, Dr Brand Fourie, has lodged a strong letter of protest with the editor of the magazine NEWSWEEK. Dr Fourie says there are a number of allegations about South Africa's internal policies in an article in the issue of the magazine dated 21 March.

The article presents a blatant misrepresentation of his government's internal policies, and it consists of a jumbled assortment of inaccuracies. Dr Fourie says no attempt was made to portray the South African Government's effort to find solutions for the country's complex problems. NEWSWEEK is under an obligation to publish the true facts. A report from Washington says that the journalist who compiled the article has not visited South Africa.

Government Bans Magazine

MB181755 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] An issue of the American weekly news magazine NEWSWEEK has been banned. That has been announced by the Directorate of Publications in Cape Town today. The Directorate has announced the 14 February issue of NEWSWEEK has been found to be undesirable. In that issue NEWSWEEK carried a cover story of what it called the world's prisoners of conscience. In a section on South Africa the magazine printed a photograph of imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandel. It also quoted Mandela's wife, Winnie Mandel, who is a banned person.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR ASKS RSA HELP ON ABDUCTED CZECHS

MB180730 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] The secretary general of the United Nations, Mr Perez de Cuellar, has asked South Africa to help to secure the release of Czechoslovak nationals abducted in southern Angola by the UNITA resistance movement. A spokesman for the secretary general said in New York that Mr Perez de Cuellar issued the appeal at the request of the Government of Czechoslovakia. UNITA announced earlier that it had captured 64 Czechoslovak and 20 Portuguese nationals in a raid on an industrial complex in the center of Angola. The movement has offered to exchange the Czechoslovaks for one Irish and six British mercenaries imprisoned in Luanda.

ZIMBABWE

POLICE RELEASE NKOMO'S SON'S GIRLFRIEND

MB181330 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] In Zimbabwe another person detained in connection with the flight from the country of Joshua Nkomo has been released by police. The ZAPU leader's wife Johanna Nkomo says her son's girlfriend, (Thoko Sibanda), has been released from custody. She says her daughter's husband, John Ndhlovu, her son (Sebikilizwe), and two Nkomo drivers, (Shamu Ndhlovu) and (Colin Shavu), are still being held. Police have detained them on suspicion of helping Joshua Nkomo flee Zimbabwe last week.

FORMER ZANU PRESIDENT SCORES MUGABE STATEMENTS

AB151403 Paris AFP in French 1211 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Harare, 15 Mar (AFP) -- Ndabaningi Sithole, the first president of ZANU which is now headed by Prime Minister Mugabe, described as a "political gimmick" Mugabe's statements in which he claims to have guaranteed the safety of Joshua Nkomo, now hiding in London. In a statement to the press, Mr Sithole, who was dismissed from the ZANU in 1970, agreed with Mr Nkomo, head of the ZAPU, when he said his life was in danger, following the search of his house by the Army 9 days ago, during which his driver was killed. It should be recalled that Mr Nkomo took refuge in Botswana a week ago and left for London over the weekend.

Mr Sithole expressed "his joy to see that Mr Nkomo escaped from his assassins" and called on the ZAPU leader "not to do anything to precipitate a civil war" between his supporters and those of Mr Mugabe. Mr Sithole also accused the Fifth Brigade of the Zimbabwean Army (trained by North Koreans) of committing atrocities against civilians in the southwestern part of the country.

ACTING ZAPU PRESIDENT CALLS FOR MERGER WITH ZANU

MB171838 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The acting president of ZAPU, Comrade Chinamano, has called for an immediate creation of a one-party state in Zimbabwe. In an interview with ZIANA, Comrade Chinamano appealed to the nation to work speadily toward achieving a merger between the ruling party ZANU-PF and ZAPU. The ZAPU leader warned that, if such a union does not take place, the enemies of Zimbabwe will continue to divide the nation, saying ZAPU is for the Ndebele and ZANU-PF for the Shona. He said the unity between the two major political organizations would put Zimbabwe in a position where it would overcome its development problems effectively. Comrade Chinamano assumed the leadership of ZAPU a week ago, after the party president, Mr Joshua Knomo, fled the country without the approval of the party. The relations between ZAPU and the ruling party, ZANU-PF, have been strained following the colaboration of some of the ZAPU officials with the armed bandits who are terrorrizing the civilian population in Matabeleland.

'DISSIDENTS' KIDNAP WHITE FARMER NEAR BULAWAYO

AB171759 Paris AFP in English 1744 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Harare, March 17 (AFP) -- A white farmer has been kidnapped from his farm near Bulawayo in southwestern Zimbabwe and a ransom note left claiming that six foreign tourists kidnapped last July are still alive, according to the official Zimbabwe news agency, ZIANA. Dyre Smith was abducted by six armed dissidents from his farm near Khami ruins, south of Bulawayo, according to the report. The ransom note demanded the release of fugitive opposition leader Joshua Nkomo's two top military aides, Dumiso Dabengwa and Lookout Masukum whose treason trial resumed today after a three-week adjournment.

The six foreign hostages -- two British, two American and two Australians -- were kidnapped by dissidents who also called for the release of the two men. The most recent ransom note said that if the dissidents' demands are not met by the end of the month then all the hostages would be killed.

The kidnapping of Mr Smith from his Hyde Park farm took place yesterday afternoon, according the government spokesman Justin Nyoka. Mr Nyoka said the ransom note was signed "Comrade Cuba from the Soviet Union". The kidnappers of Mr Smith were armed with AK-47 automatic rifles and badly assaulted a Shona-speaking farm employee, according to the government spokesman. Yesterday's kidnapping is one of a few dissident incidents that have been reported in the past few days. This marks a resumption in dissident activity, which dropped off after a series of attacks at the new year's holiday which took 14 lives.

From mid-January the government Army's Fifth Brigade has been working in southwestern Zimbabwe to control the dissident problems and has been blamed by church and international aid organizations for killing more than 1,000 civilians. Other dissident incidents include two separate occurrences in which four dissidents were killed, according to the government report. Three dissidents were killed in the figtree area south of Bulawayo on Tuesday in a shoot-out with government forces. Seven other dissidents fled, according to the report. Among property recovered from those men were South African coins, a number of pamphlets headed "Peoples Power, ZIPRA" (ZIPRA was the pre-independence guerrilla army of Mr Nkomo's party), 11 hand grenades, eight kit bags and a Soviet-designed RPK machine gun, according to the government spokesman.

In a separate incident, a white farmer reportedly in his seventies killed one of three dissidents who had entered his house, shooting him with a revolver when he kicked down the door.